

# Ophthalmology Outpatients

## South Molton Eye Centre

### Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at [rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net](mailto:rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net).

### What the service offers

We are extending our ophthalmology services with the creation of the new eye centre based at South Molton. This centre will focus on the following services:

- Glaucoma services
- Medical retina (including macular degeneration and diabetic eye disease)

The trust is proud of our post-graduate teaching centre and are committed to delivering a high-quality service to patients in the North Devon area.

Opening hours: Monday – Friday, 8am – 5:45pm

### Where service is provided

The hospital's address and postcode is:

South Molton Community Hospital  
Widgery Drive  
South Molton  
EX36 4DP

If possible, we encourage people to use public transport and other sustainable means of travel.

We are easily accessible by local bus routes.

For help planning your journey, please see the following websites:

- [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)
- [www.travelinesw.com](http://www.travelinesw.com)
- [www.traveldevon.info](http://www.traveldevon.info)

### Parking

On-site parking is free, but limited. Please be sensitive to local residents if parking vehicles on the street.

## Facilities available

There are no facilities at South Molton, so please feel free to bring a drink or snack with you if needed.

## How to be referred

You may be referred to us by your community optometrist (optician) via your GP or directly through your healthcare professional.

Depending on your condition, you may need specialist treatment or surgery to help manage your condition. We provide an excellent service across our locations, aiming to provide as much care as possible close to your home via our community sites. All operations and some specialist investigations and treatments are available only at designated locations.

## What will happen at first appointment

We use a wide variety of tests and investigations to examine your eyes and help us diagnose conditions.

This will involve taking detailed measurements and may also mean examining the tiny structures of your eyes through a microscope.

Tests, such as pupil reactions, visual fields (a measure of your peripheral or “side” vision), eye pressure tests, and blood tests may be required for conditions such as eye movement problems. We also offer vision tests, OCT scans for the retina, and for some conditions. These examinations may require eye drops to dilate your pupil (make the black part in the centre of your eye bigger), so that we can get a better view of the back of the eye. These drops can take 10-20 minutes to work, and will blur your vision and make you more sensitive to light for a few hours. **You must not drive if you have drops in your eyes and should arrange for someone to drive you to and from your appointment.**

Treatment will vary, depending on your diagnosis and some conditions require ongoing treatment or monitoring.

## Who's who

Here in the Ophthalmology department we have a team of 70 highly-skilled staff, made up of ophthalmologists, optometrists, orthoptists, nurse specialists and medical imaging colleagues, all supported by a dedicated clerical team.

## Further information

Telephone number: 01769 576364

## **PALS**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email [rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net](mailto:rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

## **Have your say**

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

Tell us about your experience of our services. Share your feedback on the Care Opinion website [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk).

---

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust  
Raleigh Park, Barnstaple  
Devon EX31 4JB  
Tel. 01271 322577  
[www.royaldevon.nhs.uk](http://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk)

© Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust  
This leaflet was designed by the Communications Department.  
[www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/get-in-touch](http://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/get-in-touch)