



# **Care for wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD)**

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[www.uhb.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets.htm](http://www.uhb.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets.htm)

## **What happens when my wet AMD is first diagnosed?**

Once your wet AMD has been diagnosed, you will be booked in for a course of eye injections with either Eylea or Lucentis. The benefits and risks of this treatment will be explained to you by one of the eye doctors (also known as Ophthalmologists). It is most common for people initially to have three of these injections, spaced out at monthly intervals.

## **What happens once I've had my first course of injections?**

Once you have had your initial course of injections, you will be seen in a doctor's clinic four to six weeks later. At this clinic, the doctor will decide if you need more injections, or if you are to be booked for follow-up in the OCT Clinic. It is common for people to need at least two more injections at this stage, spaced out at two month intervals.

## **What happens at the OCT Clinic?**

At the OCT Clinic, you will have a scan of the central retina (macula), just as you have had at previous eye clinic visits. You will have your vision checked, your pupils dilated and scans performed on each eye.

**You will NOT see a doctor in person at these OCT clinic visits.** However the scans will be analysed by an experienced Ophthalmologist within the next week.

If the situation is stable regarding your condition, you will be booked into another OCT Clinic. Initially, the appointments for the OCT Clinic will be spaced at monthly intervals, but as time goes by, the ophthalmologist may determine that the intervals between OCT Clinic visits can be extended. You will be sent appointment dates accordingly.

If you have an issue or concern when you attend the OCT Clinic, please tell the OCT technician. They will be able to forward your query to an ophthalmology nurse who will liaise with staff as appropriate, to help you.

## **What happens if the OCT scans show my wet AMD is active again?**

If the Ophthalmologist who is reviewing your scans finds that you have active wet AMD, then you will be booked in to have more Eylea or Lucentis injections. The doctor will decide how many injections you need and at what intervals. The co-ordinator will send out appointments for dates for your injections.

Once you have had this course of injections, you will be rebooked to attend the OCT clinic one month after the last injection.

## **What happens if the scan shows that my other eye now needs treatment?**

From time to time, the Ophthalmologist reviewing the scans finds that someone who is having treatment for one eye has now developed wet AMD in the other eye. If this occurs, the Ophthalmologist will write to you to let you know. The coordinator will then send you injection appointments for this.

## **What happens if I need to be seen by an Ophthalmologist?**

Sometimes the Ophthalmologist will decide that it would be wise to see you in a doctor's clinic. Do not be alarmed if you receive an appointment letter to come to a doctor's clinic. For example, it may simply be that you have been going to the OCT Clinic for a while and the doctor feels a visit to a doctor's clinic would be helpful.

## **Contact details:**

If you have queries in between your visits to the Ophthalmology Department, then you can get in contact by phone. We are here to help.

If you have a query regarding injection or OCT scan appointments, then please call one of the coordinators:

**Jacqui Stanley: 0121 371 6910**

**Debbie Bell: 0121 371 6899**

If you wish to speak to one of the Consultants' secretaries, then please call:

**Dawn Maybury, Miss Palmer & Mr Kidess' secretary:  
0121 371 6906**

**Sylvia Hardy, Mr Glover's secretary:  
0121 371 6911**

**Jane Mason, Mr Manna's secretary:  
0121 371 6921**

If you wish to make an enquiry regarding any benefits due to visual impairment, or social service issues, then please contact Talia Dewhurst, the Eye Clinic Liaison Officer. Her telephone number is **07794 086139**.

Alternatively, she can be emailed at:  
**t.dewhurst@birminghamvision.co.uk**







The Trust provides free monthly health talks on a variety of medical conditions and treatments. For more information visit [www.uhb.nhs.uk/health-talks.htm](http://www.uhb.nhs.uk/health-talks.htm) or call 0121 371 4323.

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**Ophthalmology Department**  
**Area 1, Level 0**  
**Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham**  
Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston,  
Birmingham, B15 2GW  
Telephone 0121 371 6476

**Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre:**  
**(Out-of-hours)**

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust,  
Dudley Road, Birmingham, B18 7QH  
Telephone: 0121 554 3801 ask for  
Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre

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