

Advice for all retinal patients

First appointment

Your appointment as a new referral to the Ophthalmology team at MSG will be a double appointment.

- a) On arrival at the MSG please report to reception at Mill House. If you have not received a copy of 'Your guide to age-related macular degeneration' published by the Macular Society please ask the receptionist for one.
- b) First the nurses/technicians will carry out tests on your eyes. Dilating eye drops will be administered in order to do the detailed examination. As a result your vision will be blurred for a few hours. **You should not drive until your vision has returned to normal which may take several hours.**
- c) Secondly you will see a consultant ophthalmologist. They will assess the test results and may do further examination of your eyes. Treatment will be discussed.
- d) You should leave the clinic with a clear plan. Before you leave the building please report to reception. Whenever possible the receptionist will book your next appointment.
Please bring your diary with you.

Subsequent appointments

Future visits may be single or double appointments.

- a) On arrival at the MSG Mill House please report to reception
- b) For those with double appointments the nurses/technicians will repeat some of the tests on your eyes so that we can monitor progress. This is not always necessary particularly when you are

starting a course of three injections. We will make every effort to make these double appointments on the same day, however, when we have staffing issues the 2 appointments may come on different days.

- c) Injections will be carried out by a fully trained member of the MSG ophthalmic team, either an experienced nurse, optometrist or ophthalmologist. Injections may not always be administered by the same person. Eye drops will be given prior to injection to numb and sterilize the eye. Your vision will be blurred for a few hours.
You should not drive until your vision has returned to normal which may take several hours.
- d) At this appointment we will be focused on your retinal condition. We will not be assessing any other eye conditions such as glaucoma or cataracts.
- e) A few days after the injection, if you become aware of sudden worsening of your vision with redness and increasing pain you should contact the Ophthalmology Department or Emergency Department urgently.
- f) Once you have completed the initial course of injections you will be advised on the need and frequency of further treatment. When your condition has stabilized, and when the ophthalmologist considers it safe to do so, you will be discharged to your optometrist's care. You will be advised on how frequently you should arrange checkups.
- g) You should leave the clinic with a clear plan. Before you leave the building please report to reception. Whenever possible the receptionist will book your next appointment.
Please bring your diary with you.

Additional information

What to look out for – self monitoring:

- Blurred or grey patch in the vision
- Straight lines appearing distorted
- Objects appearing smaller than normal

If you become aware of any of the above please consult the ophthalmology department on 01481 238565 or your optician.

Transport

If you require help with getting to your appointment Health Connections offer a voluntary transport service

www.healthconnections.gg/transport/

email: transport@healthconnections.gg

Phone: 01481 227470