



# Cataract Services

## **What is a cataract?**

It is when the lens of the eye becomes cloudy and difficult to see through.

You may find:

- Things look cloudy or blurred
- Bright lights dazzle
- You see double in the affected eye
- Colour vision changes– things look more yellow
- Spectacles always seem to need cleaning

## **What is the lens?**

The lens is inside the eye directly behind the coloured part, which is called the iris.

Little muscles are attached to the lens.

These can slightly alter the shape of the lens to help you focus on what you want to see.

## **What causes cataracts?**

The most common cause is ageing, but occasionally they happen because of injury, or as a complication of other conditions.

## **What can be done to help?**

In the early stages of cataract, spectacles alone may help you see clearly enough.

You will need more frequent eye examinations to assess the progress of the cataracts.

## **Will I need an operation?**

When your vision has become so poor that it seriously affects everyday life - such as driving, watching TV, or reading - then your optometrist will refer you to an eye specialist, called an Ophthalmologist, who will assess your eyes and help you decide whether to have an operation.

## **What does the operation involve?**

It is often carried out under local anaesthetic, and usually as a day case procedure (no overnight stay).

The cloudy fibres of the lens inside your eye are removed using ultrasound.

Then your lens is replaced with a new, clear implant lens made of special plastic.

## **What about after the operation?**

Afterwards, your vision is usually much better, unless there are other reasons for your poor sight besides the cataract.

Very rarely, there may be complications requiring further treatment, but even then most people notice an improvement.

## **Where can I have this operation?**

If the cataract has advanced in such a way that it is causing difficulties in everyday vision, your optometrist can refer you for surgery.<sup>1</sup>

Your optometrist will be able to discuss the various services offered locally by the following list of NHS approved providers. You also have the right to request surgery from any other NHS provider in England. This will need to be arranged through your GP.

<sup>1</sup> Patients of Liverpool CCG will be referred via the Liverpool Choice Team

# Useful Web Resources

NHS Choices – Results for Cataract surgery

Input:

Your home -- Postcode  
Procedure -- Cataract

to elicit waiting times & care quality information on local  
providers

<http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/Hospital/LocationSearch/7/Procedures>

Public Transport Planner

<http://www.traveline.info/>

## Service Provider by Postcode

L1 9EF	iSIGHT Liverpool <sup>1</sup> <a href="http://www.isightclinics.com/nhs-treatment">www.isightclinics.com/nhs-treatment</a>
L3 9SJ	SpaMedica Liverpool <a href="http://www.spamedica.co.uk">www.spamedica.co.uk</a>
L7 8XP	St. Paul's Eye Unit, Royal Liverpool University Hospital <sup>2</sup> <a href="http://www.rlbuht.nhs.uk/Ophthalmology">www.rlbuht.nhs.uk/Ophthalmology</a>
L9 7AL	Aintree University hospital <a href="http://www.aintreehospitals.nhs.uk">www.aintreehospitals.nhs.uk</a>
L18 1HQ	Spire Liverpool Hospital <a href="http://www.theliverpooleyeclinic.co.uk">www.theliverpooleyeclinic.co.uk</a>
L39 2AZ	Ormskirk & District General Hospital <sup>3</sup> <a href="http://www.southportandormskirk.nhs.uk">www.southportandormskirk.nhs.uk</a>
L39 8SE	Renacres Hospital Ormskirk <a href="http://www.renacreshospital.co.uk">www.renacreshospital.co.uk</a>

PR8 2AT	iSIGHT Southport <a href="http://www.isightclinics.com/nhs-treatment">www.isightclinics.com/nhs-treatment</a>
WA5 1QG	Warrington Hospital <a href="http://www.warringtonandhaltonhospitals.nhs.uk">www.warringtonandhaltonhospitals.nhs.uk</a>
WA7 2DA	Halton General Hospital <a href="http://www.warringtonandhaltonhospitals.nhs.uk">www.warringtonandhaltonhospitals.nhs.uk</a>
WA9 3DA	St Helens Hospital <a href="http://www.sthk.nhs.uk/">www.sthk.nhs.uk/</a>
WA11 7RZ	Fairfield Independent Hospital – Crank <a href="http://fairfield.org.uk">fairfield.org.uk</a>
WA12 0JJ	SpaMedica Newton-Le-Willows <a href="http://www.spamedica.co.uk">www.spamedica.co.uk</a>

<sup>1</sup> Initial consultation and post surgical follow up. Surgery carried out at Drayton House Southport

<sup>2</sup>Initial consultation and follow up can be offered at South Liverpool Treatment Centre

<sup>3</sup>Initial consultation offered at Southport

- We follow Royal College of Ophthalmologists' best practice offering a one-stop pre-operative service.
- Our results exceed Royal College of Ophthalmologists' requirements for accuracy
- Our complication rates from surgery are below the National Cataract Dataset average
- We only use modern operating equipment, modern operating microscopes & modern lens implant technology
- We carry out around 1800 cataract operations per year
- We provide a choice of anaesthetic techniques including local anaesthesia, sedation or general anaesthesia (although over 95 people in every 100 choose local anaesthesia)
- We use an electronic healthcare record for safe and efficient record-keeping, rapid analysis of results and timely feedback to your family doctor and high-street optician
- We offer a 24/7 on-call service and access to the operating theatre in case of emergencies so you feel safe after your surgery
- We adhere to World Health Organisation Guidance on checklists prior to surgery
- We adhere to European Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery guidelines in antibiotic use for the prevention of cataract surgery-associated infection



# CATARACT SURGERY



The Cataract service at Fairfield Independent Hospital is led and delivered by six consultant ophthalmologists, who specialise in cataract surgery. On your first appointment you will be seen in our dedicated ophthalmic suite where your consultant will carry out a comprehensive eye examination and cataract diagnosis.

Cataract surgery at Fairfield Independent Hospital is typically a day case procedure under local anaesthetic with no overnight stay. However arrangements can be made for a general anaesthetic if it is clinically indicated that local anaesthesia is not appropriate. Within a few days of surgery, you will have a follow up appointment with the consultant who carried out your procedure who will check on your progress.

We do everything we can from your first contact with us to ensure that you have the best possible experience at Fairfield Independent Hospital. We are proud of our 99% patient satisfaction scores which are also supported with our 5-star rating on NHS Choices website. Our rigorous approach to infection control means that we offer a safe, clean environment with zero levels of MRSA.

Under the Choose and Book service it is now even easier to arrange an NHS appointment at Fairfield Independent Hospital, where you will benefit from short waiting times and flexible appointments to suit your requirements. With Free on-site parking and located just off the East Lancashire Road (A580), Fairfield Independent Hospital is easily accessible.



## **Why Choose iSIGHT Clinics**

iSIGHT Clinics are approved by the NHS to provide cataract surgery in a luxurious and comfortable clinic environment with the benefit of:

- Appointments to suit you (usually within 1 – 2 weeks of referral for first eye)
- Free return personal transportation for surgery for both patient and carer.
- Consultant led service
- Free car parking
- Short waiting times
- State of the art equipment

iSIGHT Clinics have been providing excellence in eye care throughout the North West for over 20 years.

**Pre-OP & Post Op  
Assessment Clinic Address  
28 Rodney Street  
Liverpool  
L12 2TQ**

**Surgery Address:  
Drayton House  
2 Lulworth Rd  
Southport  
PR8 2AT**





## Cataract Surgery at Renacres Hospital

Renacres Hall Hospital is a small Private Hospital between Southport and Ormskirk which provides care for NHS patients at no cost to the patient. All your care will be provided by Consultant Ophthalmologists only. Your Anesthetic care, which would be either Local or General anesthesia, is also a Consultant only delivered service.

Cataract Clinics at Renacres run Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and some Saturdays. You will be guaranteed an initial appointment within one week of referral followed by a date for measurement of the eye prior to your admission for surgery. A single post op visit is made before referral to your Optician for a new spectacle prescription.

Your admission for Cataract Surgery will be arranged for either a morning, afternoon or early evening stay when you will stay in a small dedicated Eye Room staffed by dedicated Eye nurses. In case of problems following discharge you will be issued with a telephone number giving you immediate access to medical advice and if necessary review by one of the Consultants available.

Renacres has the advantage, because of its links with local Trusts, of being able to ensure easy transfer of your care to the local NHS Trust if the need arises.

**We aim to provide a rapid, safe Cataract Service in a friendly, relaxed and comfortable environment to ensure your pathway of care passes quickly and easily.**



St. Paul's Eye Unit at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital is Merseyside's oldest and largest eye unit, providing a comprehensive eye service. We perform around 3000 cataract operations per year. Our experienced surgeons are supported by a dedicated team of ophthalmic nurses and optometrists who ensure that each patient achieves the best possible outcome. Our results consistently match the standards set by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

New patients are assessed in the outpatient department at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital or at the South Liverpool Treatment Centre in Garston.

Initial examination is followed by a pre-operative assessment which comprises a general health assessment plus measurement of the eye to determine the strength of the replacement lens. An explanation of the procedure is provided and formal consent for the operation is obtained.

Surgery is performed at the RLUH. The vast majority of cases are operated under local anaesthetic; you will be in the hospital for only an hour or two. General anaesthetic with same day discharge or overnight stay, is also possible.

Patients are required to put drops in the operated eye for one month, They are examined one week post-operatively and again at four to six weeks at which point glasses are prescribed or arrangements made for surgery to the fellow eye.

**We have the back-up of an open door emergency service so that patients who are anxious that there is a problem following surgery are seen immediately.**

Cataract Surgery at our Trust is undertaken under the care of our Ophthalmology consultants.

We provide a comprehensive Cataract service for all patients no matter what general health problems they have or how difficult the cataract operation is likely to be. We offer surgery under local anaesthetic, with or without sedation or general anaesthetic, in a safe environment with all the support necessary to ensure complete eye and patient safety.

All referrals into our Cataract Service are sent an appointment to our Cataract Clinic where you will be seen by a Senior Doctor who will undertake a complete eye examination particularly focussing on your Cataract formation. At this clinic you will be given a date for surgery.

All our surgery is undertaken at **Ormskirk Hospital**. Operating sessions are on Monday PM, Tuesday PM, Wednesday AM, Thursday AM and PM and Friday AM.

Following surgery, you will be discharged home with a telephone number to ring in case of problems and an appointment, one week after surgery, for our dedicated post-operative cataract clinic, During this visit you will either be discharged or listed for second eye surgery if needed.

# SpaMedica



SpaMedica is a leading provider of medical and surgical NHS patient services performing over 7,000 cataract operations per annum.

Our hospitals are equipped with state-of-the-art technology and our service is led by senior experienced consultant surgeons where you can be assured that your care is delivered by highly qualified professionals at each stage.

### **Our hospital locations:**

- Castlefield, Manchester
- Birkenhead, Wirral
- Newton-le-Willows,
- Merseyside and Liverpool, Merseyside

### **Patient benefits include:**

- Assessment within 2 weeks from referral
- 1st eye surgery within 2 weeks from assessment
- Free door to door transport for patients and carer.  
(For mobile patients living between 10-30 miles from closest SpaMedica location)
- Post-operative appointment with your suitably qualified referring optician
- Free parking at most locations
- Free refreshments
- Modern, clean, comfortable and caring environment
- State of the art facilities and equipment
- Excellent clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction
- 24 hour helpline with direct access to our experienced nurses and consultants
- Easily accessible & helpful appointments team

**We are registered with the Care Quality Commission and are fully compliant with the requirements of the regulatory bodies that monitor the standard of healthcare provision in the UK.**



The Liverpool Eye Clinic

One Penny Lane

The Liverpool Eye Clinic is based at One Penny Lane, part of Spire Liverpool Hospital, in the south of the city. We offer a consultant led NHS cataract service which means that all of our doctors are consultant surgeons working in the NHS. The 8 consultants who make up The Liverpool Eye Clinic are all experienced, well-recognised surgeons who also work at the two large teaching hospitals in Liverpool – St Paul’s Eye Unit and Aintree University Hospital.

Spire Liverpool Hospital has one of the lowest MRSA rates in the region. Waiting times are well below average and you will be treated in a modern, clean, facility where you will have time to talk through any concerns you may have with your consultant surgeon. You will see the same consultant throughout your treatment ensuring continuity of care.



Spire Liverpool Hospital

The eye department at St Helens Hospital provides a full range of eye services to a local population of around 325,000. The eye clinic and operating theatres are housed in a brand new modern building offering clean and pleasant surroundings for patients and hospital staff.

We are equipped with state-of-the-art examination and diagnostic instruments required for a comprehensive eye examination. Our six highly trained eye consultants are all fully accomplished in performing modern sutureless cataract surgery using the latest machines. Most cataract surgery is carried out under local anaesthetic on a day case basis. This allows for rapid rehabilitation of sight with minimal disruption of daily routines and patients can return home within a few hours. For very anxious or nervous patients there are facilities to offer sedation in order to allay their anxiety.

We also offer the facility of using special intraocular lenses (called Toric lenses) during cataract surgery which can treat any pre-existing astigmatism (high prescription due to unusual shape of eyeball) and this gives very satisfactory results. Our surgeons regularly audit their surgical results which demonstrates a high safety record and patient satisfaction. Our consultant staff includes retinal surgeons who are fully capable of dealing locally with any severe complications of cataract surgery should they arise.

In addition to week day operating lists we regularly conduct cataract surgery on weekends which allows us to keep our waiting times to within three months, usually even shorter.



At Warrington and Halton Hospitals we perform over 2,000 cataract operations per year led by our experienced team of UK trained ophthalmologists – all fellows of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists

Patients at our hospitals can be assured of the highest standards of clinical care to achieve an excellent outcome from their surgery.

## **We offer**

- a one-stop consultation and assessment clinic
- surgery at two locations – at Warrington and Halton General Hospital (Runcorn)
- weekday and weekend operation dates
- light refreshment on the day of surgery

## **Our patients**

- are able to choose between general and local anaesthetic including eye-drop anaesthesia
- benefit from a full service hospital allowing us to provide care for all patients including those with the most complex eye or general health needs

Results are regularly compared to national standards and our surgery is rated above the national average for safety and outcomes. Our patient survey results demonstrate that 100% are either satisfied or fully satisfied that the results of their surgery met their expectations.

# Notes



Presented by Primary Eyecare Mersey Ltd, the  
Local Optical Committees Company on behalf  
of local optometrists