

Eye emergencies and recent eye problems

There are several services available for those suffering eye problems, each with a different set of skills and ability to help.

If you are not sure which service is suitable for you ring NHS111

Pharmacy

Pharmacy can quickly resolve most minor eye complaints with a brief examination and over the counter remedies.

If you have pink, red, sticky, itchy, dry or watery eyes, as well as the most frequently experienced issues such as a styne or if they are red and sore, go to a local pharmacist.

Minor Eye Conditions Service

Qualified Optometrists at selected Opticians can diagnose and treat a wide range of eye problems including pain, something stuck in your eye, and visual changes such as flashing lights or floating dots.

They are there for any recent (within 6 weeks) eye problem that you feel requires urgent attention, except where Eye Casualty is needed.

If you are not sure, be prepared for MECs to send you on to Eye Casualty if that is what you need.

NB – to access this service in Oxfordshire you need to have an Oxfordshire GP and be over 6 years old.

Visit: occg.info/accessMECS for a list of participating practices

Eye Casualty

Attend if you have the following :

Your optician, pharmacist, GP, urgent care centres, 999 or 111 recommend attending eye casualty.

You have:

- A serious (e.g. penetrating) eye injury,
- Sudden or dramatic vision changes,
- Eye pain that stops you from doing normal activities, or
- Eye pain in combination with vision changes or bulgy eyes,
- Go immediately to Eye Casualty (open 8:30am – 4:30pm on weekdays, 8:30am - 3:30pm on weekends and Bank Holidays)

Please make sure you have a spare pair of glasses if you are a contact lens wearer.

Do not expect to be able to drive home from hospital.

You only rarely need to go to your GP

- If your eyelids are swollen and you have a fever (this is urgent)
- If you think your vision changes might be linked to a headache (Migraine).