

Diabetic Eye Screening



Northern Ireland
**Diabetic Eye
Screening**
Programme

Advice about receiving eye drops

To obtain good photographs of the back of your eyes, we may need to use eye drops to enlarge your pupils. If you have any concerns about this, please speak to a staff member caring for you.

These eye drops may blur your vision and can make you sensitive to bright light for approximately four hours. You may also experience a temporary stinging sensation in your eyes and a dry mouth. You should not drive for at least four hours after your appointment and do not operate heavy machinery until your sight returns to normal and your eyes are comfortable. You may find it helpful to wear sunglasses.

Very rarely, the drops can cause a sudden, dramatic rise in pressure within your eyes. This only happens in people who are already at risk of developing this problem at some point in their lives. However, if it happens you will require immediate treatment in an eye unit. The symptoms of an acute pressure rise include:

- pain or severe discomfort in or around your eye;
- redness in the white of your eye;

- worsening or persistent blurred vision a few hours after being screened, sometimes with rainbow halos around lights;
- nausea or vomiting.

If you experience any of these symptoms after screening, you should be seen immediately by your GP or optometrist or go to an Emergency Department near you.

If you experience any other symptoms you are concerned about, please contact your GP. The eye drops you will be given contain tropicamide 1%. Information on other possible side effects is available in the manufacturer's leaflet - please ask our staff if you would like a copy.

Please speak to a member of staff caring for you if you have any further questions.



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