# 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. If pupil dilating eye drops are given to you in the eye clinic, you are advised to wait until your vision is clear before driving or operating machinery and this usually takes about four hours. To drive, you should be able to read a car number plate from the distance (20m) required by the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency.

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.

HSC Public Health Agency

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Find us on:

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