

Contact Lens Clinic

Contact lenses are only provided from the hospital where there is 'medical need'. Usually, this is where vision cannot be improved with spectacles but can be improved with contact lenses e.g. keratoconus, corneal distortion, very high prescriptions (over +/- 15D), significantly scarred or white corneas. The clinic does not fit lenses if adequate vision can be obtained with spectacles.

After your initial assessment

If contact lenses are needed, they will be ordered for you. You will be given a follow-up appointment to receive instruction on the care and handling of the lenses.

Payment for contact lenses

If you are fitted with a hospital contact lens you may have to pay for your contact lenses.

A standard charge is made for each lens. This charge is set by the Department of Health and reviewed annually. The current charge is £56.40 per lens. The same charge applies to replacement lenses and lost or chipped lenses.

Exemption from contact lenses charges

If you are in any of the categories listed below you will not have to pay contact lens charges:

- You need bandage, prosthetic or occlusive lenses.
- You are Registered Severely Sight Impaired.
- You are a child under 16, or over 16 but under 19 in full time education.
- You (or your partner) receives one of the following benefits:
 - o Income support.
 - o Employment & support allowance (income based).

- Job seekers allowance (income based).
- Pension credit (but only those receiving the *guarantee credit* element).
- You are named on a valid HC2 certificate.
- You are entitled to, or named on, a valid NHS tax credit exemption certificate.

Patients on low income can apply for help from Department of Social Services by filling in a HC1 form.

Valid proof of eligibility will be required at the time of ordering.

Payment methods

You can pay by credit or debit card, cash or cheque at the Royal Berkshire Hospital's Cashier's Office behind main reception, level 2 main entrance. Alternatively, you can pay by credit or debit card only over the telephone – 0118 322 7054.

Contact Lens Clinic (Orthoptics) Reading	0118 322 7681
Contact Lens Clinic (Orthoptics) Windsor	01753 636431
Eye Casualty (Reading):	0118 322 8855 (Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm; Sat & Sun & Bank Holidays 9am-12.30pm)
Prince Charles Eye Unit (Windsor):	01753 636359 (Mon to Fri 9am-5pm) 01753 636496 (Sat 9am-1pm)

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

Orthoptic Department
 Reviewed: October 2017
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