

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

Ophthalmology – Cataract Surgery

Introduction

The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would all like and it is not always possible to identify when treatment will take place. This document provides you with information on how you can support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital.

Guidance for Patients

Whilst you are waiting for your intervention it is important that you remain as active and as medically fit as possible. If you have any long-standing conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes you should get this reviewed at your Doctor's surgery to make sure it remains well controlled. This will also help prevent any unnecessary delays when you come for your pre-operative assessment. Maintaining a well-balanced diet is also important, as is reducing any excessive weight that may be impacting on your general health. If you are a current smoker it would be advisable to seek support to help with stopping, advice can be found at your local pharmacy or Doctor's surgery.

Getting prepared to have surgery is all about good preparation for your body and mind. During this time, you can take simple steps to improve your physical and mental health.

Benefits of this include:

- Enhance recovery following treatment.
- Reduce post-op complications.
- Reduce length of stay in hospital.
- Provide an opportunity to stop smoking and drinking alcohol.
- Improve fitness.
- Improve nutritional health.
- Enhance quality of life.

Take Your Medication

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Continue to take your medication while waiting for your surgery, as directed by your GP and hospital specialist. Remember to bring all medicines, vitamins, herbal remedies and supplements you take, with you when you attend the pre- op assessment clinic. During this appointment you will be given clear information on whether you should stop taking your usual medicines before going into hospital.

Hypertension – if you are on medication for high blood pressure, please ensure you are taking these regularly and do let your GP know that you are due for your eye surgery – we may not be able to proceed with the surgery if the blood pressure is more than 190/100mmHg on the day of the surgery.

Diabetes – Please ensure that the blood sugar level is well controlled. The HbA1c should be less than 69mmol/mmol for routine procedures. Your procedure may not be able to go ahead if the levels higher than this. Please let us know if your levels are higher than the therapeutic range by calling 01935 384565.

Warfarin – Please ensure that the INR levels are within your therapeutic range (this would have been decided by the clinician who started in you on warfarin and is recorded in the yellow book). You will need to have it checked no more than 48 hours before your surgery day – please let us know if your levels are higher than the therapeutic range by calling 01935 384565 or 07584312399.

For procedures under a local anaesthetic, please take all your medicines as usual on the day of surgery.

Keep Moving

Healthy eating and being active

Information and advice on healthy eating and becoming more active is available from:

- **One You Eat Better** (website) - includes Easy Meals app for healthy meals and the Change4Life Food Scanner to help reduce levels of sugar in your diet.
- **Better Health - Get Active** (website) - includes tips on getting active for all, including the downloadable Active 10 app, as well as tailored advice for those living with a long-term condition.
- **Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership** (SASP) is dedicated to increasing the health and happiness of residents in Somerset through physical activity and sport.

Improve Your Health

Regular exercise is important for your health and wellbeing. Being active has a long-term positive impact on your health and immediate mental and social benefits.

Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP) have lots of information for adults and children and young people on how you can be active.

SASP also have tips on how you can **be active at home**.

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Age UK also offer a range of activities and exercise classes. You can find out about any classes in your local area on the [Age UK website](#).

[Smokefreelife Somerset – Smokefreelife Somerset \(healthysomerset.co.uk\)](#) Free stop smoking service supporting Somerset residents to become smoke free.

[Lose weight - Better Health - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) losing weight has many health benefits. Making small, simple changes to what and how much you are eating and drinking can really help you lose the pounds.

Good Mental Health

Mental health and emotional wellbeing affect all aspects of our lives and health choices. Mental wellbeing is about feeling good and functioning well, as individuals and as communities. It is also about our ability to cope with life's problems and making the most of life's opportunities.

[Mental health and wellbeing \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

Mindline Somerset - Mindline is a confidential listening service which provides a safe place to talk if you, or someone you know, is in distress. We can also give basic information about mental health and local support services.

Emotional support and mental health helpline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

01823 276 892

0800 138 1692

[Mindline - Mind in Somerset](#)

Somerset Mental Health Hub

[South Somerset | Somerset Mental Health \(somersetmentalhealthhub.org.uk\)](#)

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

Cataracts generally cause a gradually progressive reduction in sight, any sudden reduction in sight or other symptoms such as flashing lights, floaters, a localised blind spot/shadow in your peripheral vision, distortion of your central vision particularly when looking at straight lines or redness or pain in your eyes would not be caused by cataract. If you experience any of these symptoms while waiting, you will need to seek help soon from your GP or optician.

You can also call 07584312399 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday but please note that this number is only for **urgent situations** and the person may not be able help in other situations.

For routine inquiries regarding wait times or other logistical queries, please contact the bookings team on 01935 384565 or the eye secretaries on 01935 384512.

If you are struggling with your health (including both physical and mental health) while you wait for surgery, please consult your GP:

- visit their website
- use the [NHS App](#)

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The contents of this information has been reviewed and approved by the Patient Safety Committee of Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

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- call them

Urgent Health Advice

For urgent health advice about physical or mental health, when it's not an emergency, please call 111 from any landline or mobile phone. You can also visit www.nhs.uk. The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Life Threatening Emergencies

For something life threatening – severe bleeding, breathing difficulties or chest pains – please dial 999.