

Participating Practices

Minor Eye Conditions Service

Darlington

Cooper & Leatherbarrow Ltd
10 Duke Street, Darlington,
County Durham, DL3 7AF
01325 463267

Darlington Eyecare Ltd
24a High Row, Darlington,
County Durham, DL3 7QW
01325 466019

Specsavers
41 High Row, Darlington,
County Durham, DL3 7QW
01325 461155

Durham Dales, Easington & Sedgfield

Gibson Opticians

Blandford Buildings, Dene Terrace,
Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 4JF
0191 5862484

Shewan Opticians

94 Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland,
County Durham, DL14 7EQ
01388 602567

K C Haikings Opticians

13 Upper Chare
Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 1BW
0191 5862679

Sight Ltd

34 The Chare,
Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 1AE
0191 5865671

T M Hedley Optometrist

11 Woods Terrace East, Murton,
Seaham, County Durham, SR7 9AA
0191 5261748

Specsavers

45 Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland,
County Durham, DL14 7EW
01388 606080

K McGuinness Opticians

Avenue House, Greenwell Road,
Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4DH
01325 316600

Specsavers

55 Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe,
County Durham, DL5 4DP
01325 328800

R Mottershead Optometrist

12 Market Place, Barnard Castle,
County Durham, DL12 8ND
01833 631849

Specsavers

Unit 8, The Chare, Castle Dene Shopping Centre,
Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 1AE
0191 5872223

R J Naisbitt Optometry

Co-Op Buildings, Hedley Terrace,
South Hetton, County Durham, DH6 2UE
0191 5208059

Specsavers

Unit 10b, Byron Place,
Seaham, County Durham, SR7 7DR
0191 5133030



Minor Eye Problems?

If you have a recent problem with
your eyes – such as sore eyes, red eyes
or visual disturbance – you can be
assessed and treated by our
local Minor Eye Conditions Service.

This is a free NHS service available from
a number of local opticians. See inside for more
information of what conditions are covered
and how to book an appointment.

What is a Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS)?

Conditions that can be seen under the service include:

- Red eye or eyelids
- Dry eye, or gritty and uncomfortable eyes
- Irritation and inflammation of the eye
- Significant recent sticky discharge from the eye or watery eye
- Recently occurring flashes or floaters
- Ingrowing eyelashes
- Recent and sudden loss of vision
- Foreign body in the eye

Please note, this is not a sight test

Also, if you have a major eye condition that is being regularly monitored by your optometrist or hospital eye service, this will not be covered by this service; for example, cataracts, diabetic retinopathy or glaucoma.

Where should I go?

Registered optometry practices (opticians) offering the service are listed on the back of this leaflet. An appointment will normally be required, so telephone first. Appointments are available during normal working hours and some practices offer appointment at weekends. Not all practices have an optometrist available every day, but if they don't, they will be able to find you an alternative appointment nearby.

Who is this service for?

If you are registered with a local GP you can use this free service. It is for people of all ages – adults and children. Children under 16 years must be accompanied at their appointment by an adult.

How do I book an appointment with the service?

To make an appointment, call one of the opticians on the back of this leaflet. You will be asked some questions about your symptoms in order to assess how quickly you need to be seen by the service, which will be within 24 hours in urgent cases and within a few days for routine appointments.

Please take your glasses and a list of your current medication with you to the appointment. The optometrist may put drops in your eyes to enlarge your pupils in order to get a better view inside your eyes. You should not drive until the effects of these drops have worn off, which may take a few hours.

If your condition is more serious, the optometrist will book you an urgent appointment at a hospital eye clinic. If you need a routine appointment with a hospital, the optometrist will organise this for you.

You may also be advised to make an appointment with your GP if your eye condition is related to your general health.

