

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET - Evaluation of the Minor Eye Condition Scheme

Please read this information sheet carefully. If there is anything you do not understand, please ask the optometrist (optician) who will be examining you for help.

You are being seen today as part of a new Minor Eye Conditions Scheme. This scheme has been designed to allow optometrists to manage minor eye conditions and so reduce the waiting time for a hospital appointment. If a referral to hospital or other doctor is subsequently needed, then this will be arranged by the optometrist.

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To find out how successful the Minor Eye Conditions Scheme is, we need to collect information about the patients seen, such as age, ethnic origin, the type of the eye problem they were seen for and how it was dealt with by the optometrist. If patients need to be seen by another doctor, we will also add this information to the record. This **non-identifiable data** may be used for 1) **clinical review**, 2) **clinical audit**, 3) **commissioning** or 4) **research** purposes.

Your personal data, such as your name, date of birth or address will not be collected. You will only be identified by a unique code that cannot be traced back to you.

1. Each patient's treatment will be the subject of a **clinical review** by eye consultants at Guys & St Thomas Hospital or Kings College Hospital. This is to ensure that nothing has been missed that might need hospital attention. **This data will not include your personal information**
2. Some patient's treatment may be the subject of a **clinical audit**. This is to ensure that the best treatment has been offered by your optometrist at all times. **This data will not include your personal information**
3. GPs in Lewisham plan, buy and monitor health services for patients. They need to use information such as this to measure the effectiveness of these services and to decide how best to meet local need. This is called **commissioning**. **This data will not include your personal information**
4. Researchers at City University in London are working with local doctors and health services managers to look at how well the scheme works. Only the research team at City University will have access to the data collected, which will be stored in a password protected computer. **This data will not include your personal information**. You don't have to take part in this **research** study. If you do not wish your information to be used in this way, you can say "no" without needing to give a reason. Saying no will not affect the standard of care that you will receive from the optometrist. If you say yes, but later change your mind, you can withdraw at any time (again without needing to give a reason) by ringing the researchers whose details are given below.

This study is organised by City University London and has been reviewed by the Research and Ethics Committee of the School of Health Sciences. If you have any questions about the study please ask the optometrist in the first instance. If you still have questions, you can call Dr Evgenia Konstantakopoulou: 020 7040 3988 or Dr Helen Baker: 020 7608 6896. City University has a complaints procedure that is organised by the Secretary to the Research Ethics Committee.

If there is anything about the study which you are not happy with, you may make a complaint. To complain about the study, you may phone: 020 7040 3040. You can ask to speak to the Secretary of the Ethics Committee and inform them that the name of the project is the 'Enhanced Scheme Evaluation Project'. You could also contact the Secretary by writing to: Ms Anna Ramberg, Secretary to Senate Ethics Committee Research Development Office at City University

PLEASE SEE YOUR OPTOMETRIST IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE ABOVE