



Practice  
Plus  
Group


Practice Plus Group Ophthalmology

# National AMD Service Referrer Pack



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# Treatment information

We can treat most macular conditions that respond to Intra Vitreal injections (IVI)

- Wet Macular Degeneration (WAMD)
- Diabetic Macular Oedema (DMO)
- Vein Occlusions (VO)
- Neovascular membranes associated with myopia (Myopic CNVM)

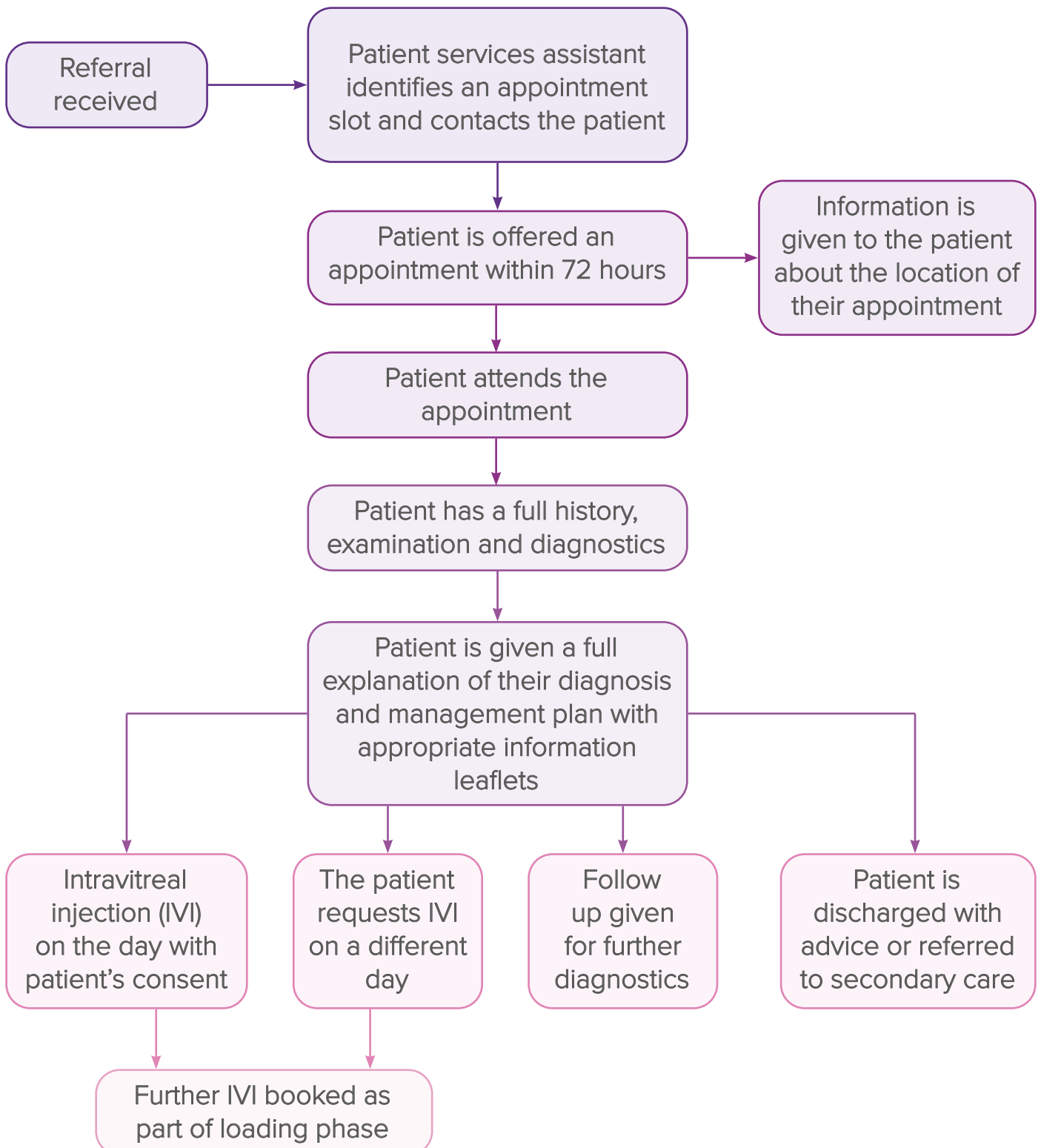
These conditions may be treated with Lucentis, Eylea, Avastin or Beovu.

We do not treat:

- Dry AMD
- Epiretinal Membranes
- Macular Holes



# Patient Pathway





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## Practice Plus Group Ophthalmology

National AMD service

# How to refer

We pride ourselves on our fast and effective referral systems. We offer 100% of our patients an appointment within 72 hours of receiving their first referral.

To refer a patient to us, you can use several different options:

**ERS** - We now receive referrals via a RAS (Referral Assessment Service) on ERS, which allows Optoms/GPs to refer in to us without booking an appointment. As a result of the above, searching on ERS the AMD service will be shown as a 'Triage Request' service, rather than an 'Appointment Request' service.

The RAS is published on the secondary care menu on ERS, so it is open to anybody at all to make a referral into the service. The RAS names are in the following format;

OPHTHALMOLOGY - MACULAR RAS  
- WAKEFIELD - PRACTICE PLUS GROUP  
OPHTHALMOLOGY - D0K5I

OPHTHALMOLOGY - MACULAR RAS -  
DONCASTER - PRACTICE PLUS GROUP  
OPHTHALMOLOGY - U0L6W

OPHTHALMOLOGY - MACULAR RAS  
- BRADFORD - PRACTICE PLUS GROUP  
OPHTHALMOLOGY - M9O2F

**Email** - [practiceplusgrp.macular@nhs.net](mailto:practiceplusgrp.macular@nhs.net)

**Your local Optometrist referral network**  
e.g. Opera.

\*when searching for a service to refer in to, depending on the distance Practice Plus Group may/may not show – therefore you may need to increase the distance you are searching.



## Practice Plus Group, Ophthalmology

# Referral information for Wet AMD

### Referral acceptance

- Over 18 years old
- Not require general anaesthetic
- Hypertension should be controlled / stable

### Referral acceptance notes

- If a patient is referred and is found to have macular holes, lamellar holes, epiretinal membranes we will accept the referral and complete the scans. The consultant will decide on a suitable management plan, it is usual to treat wet AMD and refer on other the co-morbidities.
- These conditions do not contraindicate intravitreal therapy and we will continue to treat if a patient has treatable AMD. The patient should be referred to a specialist provider for the other conditions. It is usual to treat wet AMD as a priority and to refer onwards for other conditions.
- In case of an emergency such as retinal detachment this is the priority condition and the consultant will need to decide management on a case per case basis referring onwards as appropriate.
- In the circumstance that a glaucoma patient has an IOP is above 24 the consultant will decide if the intravitreal injection (IVI) treatment is urgent and issue a management plan. The patient will be referred on to local ophthalmology service for glaucoma management. But will be continued to be seen by us for Wet AMD treatment.
- In the event of a patient presenting with chalazia or conjunctivitis, we will wait until the condition is clear, due to the risk of endophthalmitis. We will accept the referral and get a baseline OCT scan to determine the urgency of treatment. Antibiotics will be prescribed to clear the infection. The patient will not be treated with active infective disease. Anti VEGF injections should not be performed when there is an infection in or around either eye.
- In patients that have had recent myocardial infarction, stroke, vascular events or unstable angina in the past six months anti VEGF injections should be used with caution and require a consultant management plan evaluating risks and benefits.
- Anti VEGF injections should not be used if patient is trying to become pregnant, during pregnancy or breast feeding.

# Practice Plus Group Ophthalmology

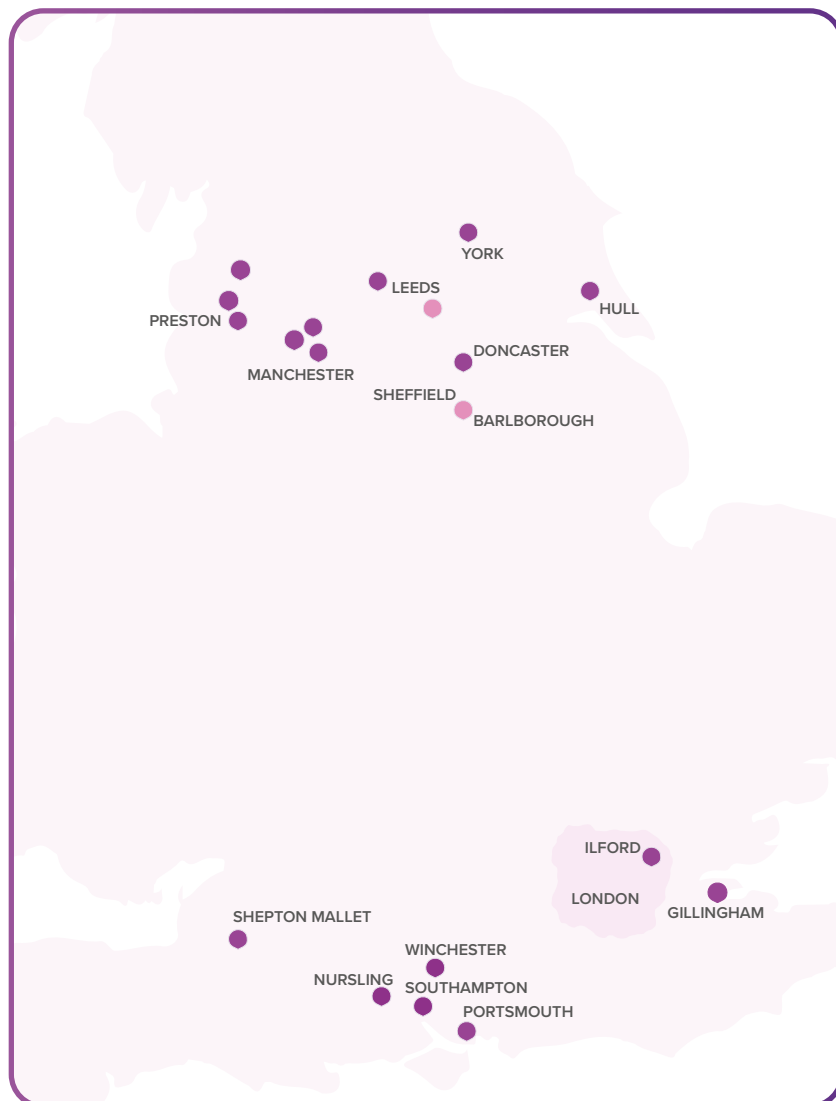
## Service locations

### We currently have sites at:

Bradford,  
Castleford,  
Doncaster,  
Gillingham,  
Hull,  
Shepton Mallet,  
Southampton,  
York.

### Existing Northwest sites:

Rochdale,  
Preston,  
Chorley,  
Longridge,  
Ashton-Under-Lyne,  
Bury.



The 72-hour response service can enhance local patient experience, by improving access and reducing treatment times. With a proven record of successful AMD and macular service delivery, this is an attractive option for patients who choose the service to carry out their Wet AMD treatments.

For more information, please visit our website:  
[practiceplusgroupophthalmology.co.uk/](https://practiceplusgroupophthalmology.co.uk/)



# Practice Plus Group Ophthalmology Wet AMD Rapid access referral form

Name of referring practice: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of patient exam: \_\_\_\_\_

## Patient details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ NHS number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact tel nos.: \_\_\_\_\_

GP name: \_\_\_\_\_ GP surgery: \_\_\_\_\_

## OPTOMETRIST DETAILS (please print, do not use a stamp)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

GOC number: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>AFFECTED EYE:</b>	Right	<input type="checkbox"/>	Left	<input type="checkbox"/>
Past history in either eye				
Previous AMD	Right	<input type="checkbox"/>	Left	<input type="checkbox"/>
Myopia	Right	<input type="checkbox"/>	Left	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	Right	<input type="checkbox"/>	Left	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Referral guidelines

### PRESENTING SYMPTOMS IN AFFECTED EYE (one answer must be 'yes')

Duration of visual loss:

Please specify

1. Visual loss	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Central vision loss	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Onset of scotoma (or blurred spot) in central vision	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

### FINDINGS Best corrected VA (must be 6/96 or better in affected eye)

1. Distance VA	Right	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	Left	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>
2. Near VA	Right	<input type="text"/>	Left	<input type="text"/>
3. Macular drusen (either eye)	Right	<input type="text"/>	Left	<input type="text"/>
4. I.O.P reading	Right	<input type="text"/>	Left	<input type="text"/>

In the affected eye ONLY, presence of:

5. Macular haemorrhage (preretinal, retinal, subretinal)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Subretinal fluid	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Exudate	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Comments / additional requirements

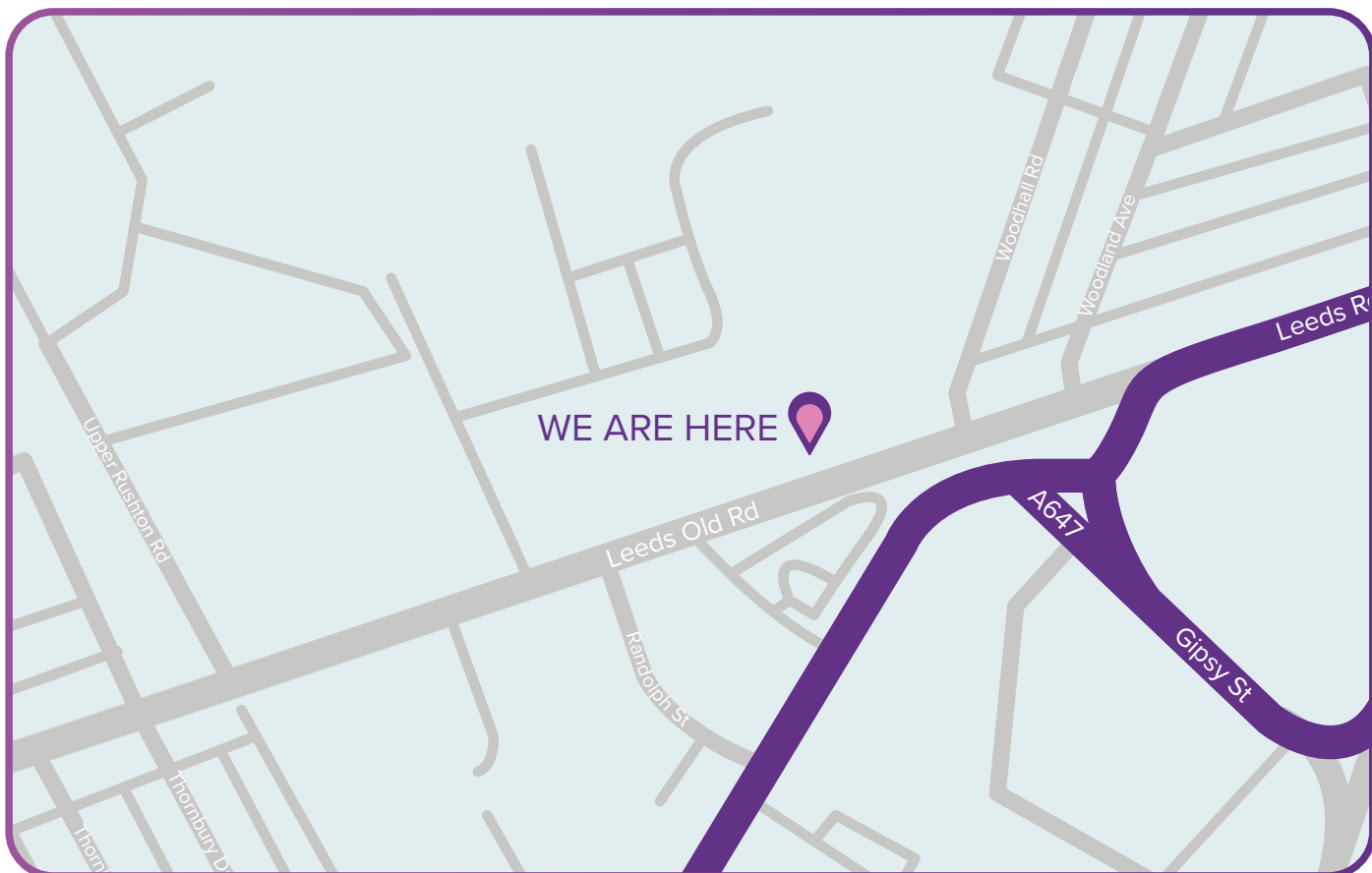




Practice Plus Group

## Practice Plus Group Ophthalmology

# Bradford



Nearest bus stops:		Nearest train station:	
Woodhall Centre Leeds Old road	(2 min)	New Pudsey	(27 min)
Leeds Road Thornbury	(3 min)	Bradford Forster Square	(42 min)
Roundabout Thornbury	(4 min)	Bradford Interchange	(43 min)

### Practice Plus Group Ophthalmology Bradford

B&Q car park,  
99 Leeds Old Road,  
Bradford,  
BD3 7BQ

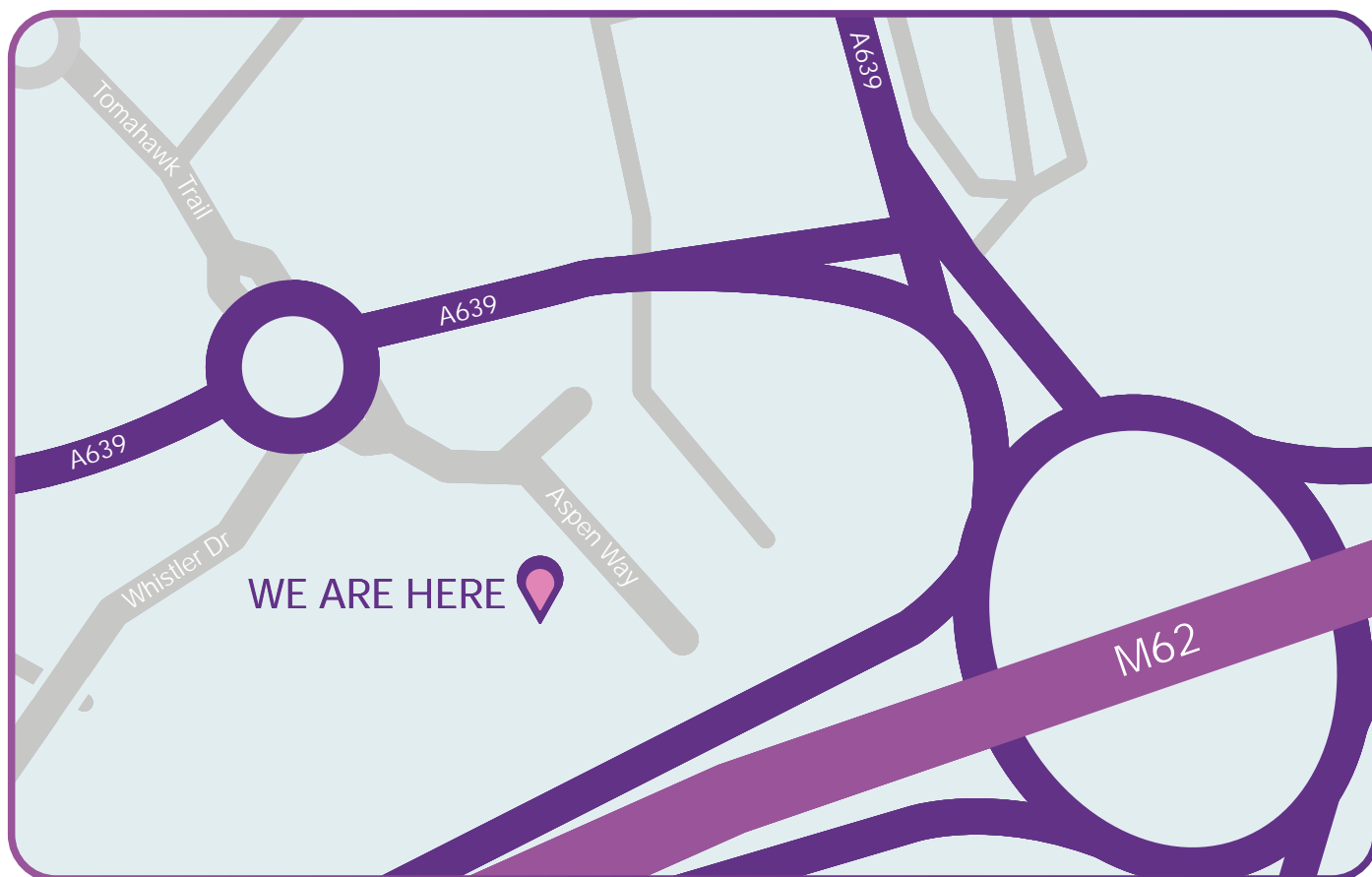
0333 200 4058

[www.northwestophthalmology.co.uk](http://www.northwestophthalmology.co.uk)



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## Practice Plus Group Ophthalmology Castleford



Nearest bus stops:		Nearest train station:	
Colorado Way Whistler, Glasshoughton	(3 min)	Glasshoughton	(8 min)
Junction 32 retail outlet, Glasshoughton	(5 min)	Pontefract Monkhill	(40 min)

### Practice Plus Group Ophthalmology Castleford

B&Q car park,  
Aspen Way,  
Glasshoughton,  
Castleford, WF10 4TA

0333 200 4058

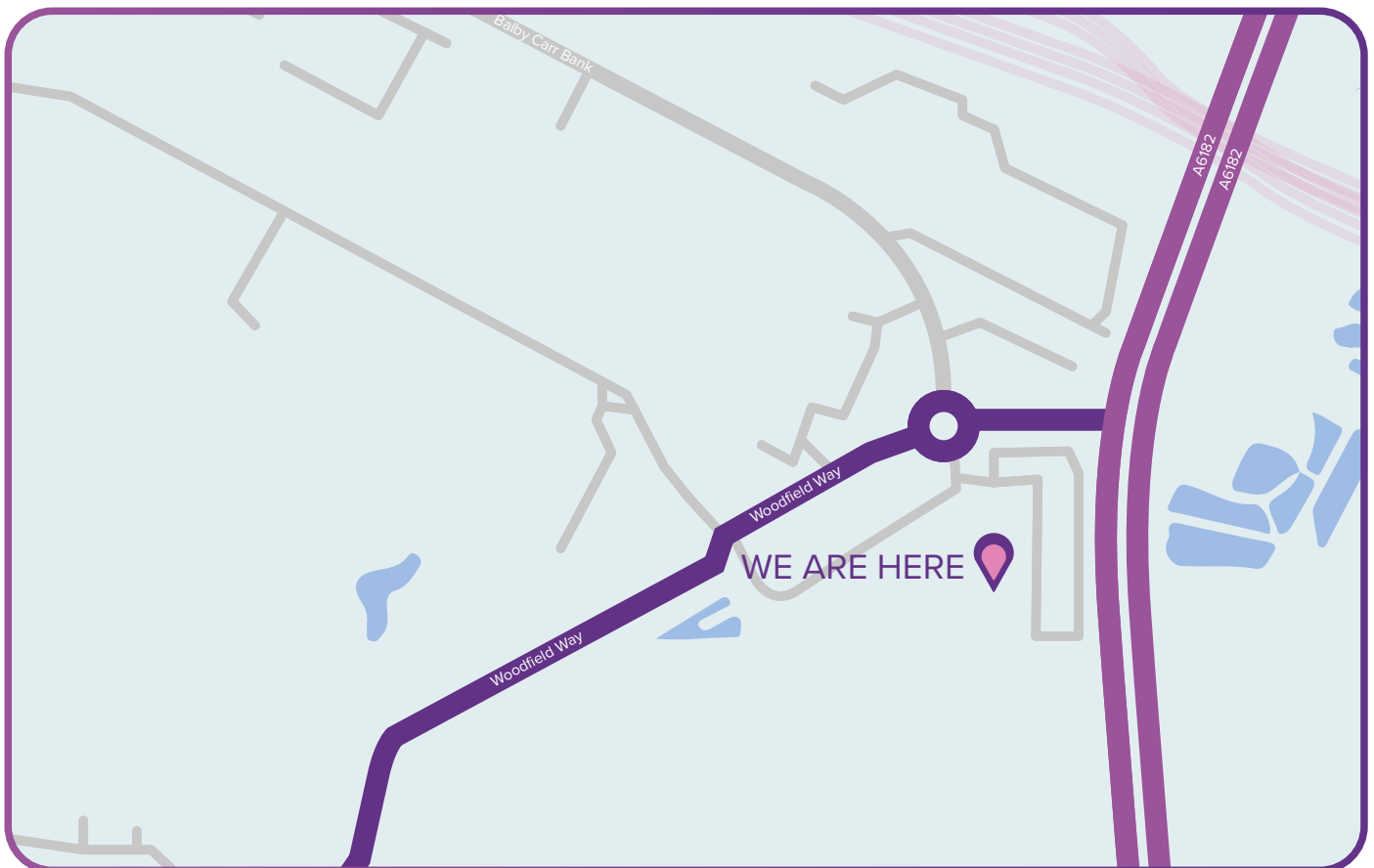
[www.northwestophthalmology.co.uk](http://www.northwestophthalmology.co.uk)



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# Doncaster



Nearest bus stops:		Nearest train station:	
Woodfield Way/Balby Carr Bank	(3 min)	Doncaster	(51 min)
White Rose Way	(4 min)		
Woodfield Way	(4 min)		
Wilmington Drive	(17 min)		

### Practice Plus Group Ophthalmology Doncaster

B&Q car park,  
Catesby Business Park,  
Doncaster,  
DN4 8SJ

0333 200 4058

[www.northwestophthalmology.co.uk](http://www.northwestophthalmology.co.uk)



# FAQs

## 1. How long will the appointment take from start – finish?

On a patient's first visit to us, their first appointment will last approximately 30 minutes. For all follow up appointments, approximately 20 minutes.

## 2. Will I be able to drive to and from the appointment?

We advise patients not to drive to their first appointment as we have to dilate the eyes. It is ok to drive to all follow up appointments.

## 3. How long is the recovery of AMD injections?

After the AMD injections, patients may feel a gritty/foreign body sensation within the eye ranging between an hour and all day. Patients may see an occasional 'floater' for 48 hours and have blurred vision for 24 – 48 hours. Normally patients will feel better by the next day.

## 4. Do I need to bring anything to my appointments?

We request that patients bring their prescription glasses and current medication lists.

## 5. How many injections will I need to have/how often will I need to have them?

Initially patients will receive three monthly injections as a loading dose. Injections may continue monthly but most patients have the interval extended. Following this, our AMD team will review this and discuss a management plan with the patient. Follow up appointments will be for at least two years.



**1. Is it safe to attend appointments in the current COVID-19 environment?**

Yes, all of our guidelines, protocol and safety measures are put in place for the safety of our patients. These include PPE, Social distancing, one patient on the unit at a time and hygiene measures. We request all relatives/friends to wait outside the unit. Please see our COVID safety leaflet for more information.

**2. Will the injections hurt?**

We use anaesthetic drops in the eye to numb it. You will feel a slight pin prick but most patients tolerate the injections well.

**3. Will I go blind?**

Very few patients lose their sight. The treatment is designed to stabilise your vision and prevent further loss of vision. In some cases, patients may experience improvement to their vision. Without treatment patients will notice their CENTRAL vision deteriorate but they will maintain their peripheral vision.



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# Practice Plus Group Ophthalmology

## Meet the team

### **Caroline McHugh, Service Director**

Caroline has significant experience in working within Healthcare, including over a decade leading clinical and operational teams in both ophthalmology and fertility. Caroline is passionate about putting the patient at the heart of decisions, and in working within communities wherever possible to provide accessible care and the highest quality outcomes.

### **Sophie Holmes, Business Development Manager**

Sophie has been working with the Ophthalmology team for over 2 years, improving the pathway and community integration of PPG'S services. This role has seen the implementation of multiple AMD services nationally, and created some fantastic opportunities for local engagement. Sophie comments "Seeing the difference all of our services make to patients lives is the most rewarding part of my job. It is great to work with such passionate and caring individuals who help to deliver exceptional care".

### **Barmak A.Zadeh, Medical Lead for Macular Services**

Barmak is a consultant ophthalmologist at Practice Plus Group clinics. He has vast experience in the field and is routinely involved in the diagnosis and treatment of retinal and macular diseases, cataracts, corneal diseases, keratoconus, and glaucoma at Rochdale Ophthalmology. In 2022, Barmak was promoted to the Medical Lead for our Macular Services, overseeing our National AMD service. He has over 20 years of experience in Ophthalmology during which he has published a number of peer reviewed scientific publications in the medical literature.

### **Suzi Illston, Senior Finance and Operations Manager**

Suzi has worked in healthcare for over 10 years, mainly within Ophthalmology services and is responsible for all financial and operational matters for our sites and mobile services, as well as company-wide ophthalmology projects. Suzi previously worked in highly commercial industries and brings with her a wealth of business experience and knowledge. Suzi feels that working in healthcare represents her true vocation. She says, "Making a real, tangible and positive difference to our patients' lives is the most important thing I have undertaken in my professional career and being able to develop and grow strong, patient focused values within a sustainable business framework is the cornerstone to ensuring that we can continue to provide our excellent service to as many patients as possible, as our service grows".

**Barbara McCabe,**  
Croft Shifa Clinical Lead

Barbara has worked in Ophthalmology services since 2009. She is experienced in overseeing clinics including assessments and post-operative checks and Scrub nurse for a range of Ophthalmic procedures. Soon to be fully qualified in the nurse injector role, Barbara has completed a seconded year of Ophthalmic research. Barbara has been in a managerial role since 2018, and in 2021 became the Clinical Lead for the Croft Shifa Ophthalmology team.

**Dan Nolan,**  
Consultant Ophthalmologist

Dan Nolan is a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, specialising in oculoplastic and adnexal surgery, and is responsible for the treatment of patients referred to The Croft Shifa Health Centre, for specialist oculoplastic care. He is a tutor and examiner at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and provides advanced sub-specialty training in oculoplastic surgery. Dan completed his specialist training within the North-West deanery at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. Having been a consultant at the Royal Oldham Hospital since 2005, Dan was appointed as a Consultant at MREH in 2012, he then moved to Macclesfield District General Hospital in 2014.

**Nicola Walden,**  
Clinical Lead, Macular Services

Nicola qualified as a nurse in 2009, ultimately deciding to specialise in Ophthalmology. In 2019, Nicola joined Practice Plus Group (formerly Care UK), and has since worked as part of the Macular Services team as it has expanded nationally. Nicola comments "I am delighted with my appointment as Clinical Lead for AMD services and look forward to the challenges of taking this patient-centred and accessible service forward as it continues to grow into new areas."

**Lee Griffiths,**  
Infrastructure Manager

Lee joined the team in 2007 as a logistics engineer and has progressed to Infrastructure Manager. Lee's main role is managing the design and logistics of the Ophthalmology and MRI scanners. He currently has 5 drivers working with him to ensure the smooth transportation of the trailers from site to site across the country, helping to deliver the high quality of patient care expected by Practice Plus Group.

# COVID-19

## Information

Despite the national lockdown, all planned treatments and appointments will go ahead as normal unless patients are told otherwise.

To keep our service as safe as possible, we encourage patients to attend appointments on their own unless there is a genuine need for someone to accompany, such as a carer, interpreter or other supporter. Where patients have been driven to their appointment by a friend, carer or relative, we request that the driver remains in their car unless there is a genuine need as above.

COVID-19 has meant that across all areas of our lives we are having to do things differently. Our service has also made changes to keep everyone safe while continuing to care for those who need us most.

To keep everyone safe we ensure:

 Full PPE is worn by staff at all times.



Cleaning between each patient: We have increased our cleaning routines and removed some 'high touch point' equipment such as vending machines and water dispensers.



Handwashing is one of the most important ways for us all to reduce the spread of the virus. All colleagues and patients are required to practice good hand hygiene; we have regular hand wash stops, and guidance on how to wash your hands effectively is visible throughout our building. We have also increased the number of hand sanitising dispensers available.



Regular covid testing of all employees.



Social distancing where possible.

Please note that if you or someone within your household have any symptoms of COVID-19 such as a new cough, loss of taste or smell or a high temperature, you do not attend our service. You should remain at home until your symptoms have passed to avoid any risk to other patients and staff.



## **Practice Plus Group Ophthalmology**

Croft Shifa Health Centre

Belfield Rd

Rochdale

OL16 2UP

Reception: 0333 200 4058 (Calls may be recorded for quality and training purposes)

Opening hours: 7.30am – 5.30pm Monday to Saturday