

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust



Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust provides the Paediatric Ophthalmology services for Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Medway Maritime and Sittingbourne Memorial Hospitals. The Ophthalmology service for adults with squint problems is based at Maidstone Hospital.

If your GP refers you or your child to the eye clinic with a suspected squint, lazy eye or eye muscle disorder you or your child will be booked an appointment in one of our specialist clinics. This first appointment will include seeing the Orthoptist and / or Optometrist and / or Ophthalmologist. Appointments with the Optician and Ophthalmologist are likely to involve having eye drops in each eye that may sting a little and take some time to work.

These joint appointments are available for children at the different hospital sites during the week, with a clinic for adult patients at Maidstone Hospital on Wednesday afternoons:

Monday	Maidstone Hospital – Orthoptist and Optometrist Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital – Orthoptist and Ophthalmologist
Tuesday	Maidstone Hospital – Orthoptist and Optometrist Medway Maritime Hospital – Orthoptist and Ophthalmologist Tunbridge Wells Hospital – Orthoptist, Optometrist and Ophthalmologist
Wednesday	Maidstone Hospital - Orthoptist and Ophthalmologist Medway Maritime Hospital – Orthoptist and Optometrist
Thursday	Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital – Orthoptist and Ophthalmologist

The aim of these joint appointments is to fully investigate your / your child's symptoms, diagnose your / your child's squint and discuss the treatment options available. For children this may include a combination of wearing glasses, patching treatment, eye exercises and surgery. For adults this can include a combination of prisms, eye exercises, Botulinum Toxin injections and surgery. These are all available within Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

Some first appointments and subsequent visits to review your treatment are just with the Orthoptist. These appointments are available as detailed below:

Monday	Maidstone Hospital Tunbridge Wells Hospital Medway Maritime Hospital Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital
Tuesday	Medway Maritime Hospital Tunbridge Wells Hospital Medway Hospital
Wednesday	Medway Maritime Hospital Tunbridge Wells Hospital
Thursday	Maidstone Hospital Tunbridge Wells Hospital Medway Maritime Hospital Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital
Friday	Maidstone Hospital

The Orthoptists working in the department have a wide variety of specialist roles including testing adults who have had a Stroke, seeing patients with Glaucoma, assessing premature babies and children who have a visual impairment and those with specific learning disabilities such as Meares Irlen syndrome and tracking difficulties for people with dyslexia.

In addition the Orthoptic department has a strong working relationship with the Maxillofacial surgeons, Endocrinologists, Oncologists, Paediatricians, Elderly Medicine and other health professionals. The Orthoptic department is also an accredited University placement for undergraduate Orthoptists so there may be supervised students in the department at your appointment.

For further information about our services and your appointment at Maidstone Hospital please contact the Orthoptic Department at Maidstone Hospital on 01622 226236.

For changes to your appointment at Tunbridge Wells or Medway Maritime Hospitals please contact the Clinical Administration Unit on 01622 228218.

For changes to your appointment at Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital please telephone 01795 418300.