

PATIENT INFORMATION FOR TELE-OPHTHALMOLOGY

What is Tele-ophthalmology?

Tele-ophthalmology means using videoconference equipment to have a consultation with the eye specialist in Perth without leaving your hometown.

What are the benefits of Tele-ophthalmology to you?

- You and/or your family do not have to wait until the eye specialist's next outpatient clinic in your hometown
- You and/or your family do not have to go to Perth to see the eye specialist, saving you travel time and potential costs

How does Tele-ophthalmology all happen?

Initially, you will be assessed by a health professional in your hometown. This person could be your local GP, the optometrist or a doctor in the hospital's Emergency Department. This assessment will determine whether or not a Tele-ophthalmology consultation is required.

If Tele-ophthalmology is appropriate, the local health professional will then discuss the information provided in this sheet. If you agree to continue, you will be asked to give written consent for the eye specialist consultation.

The local health professional will then organise an appointment with the eye specialist. The time will be dependent on the urgency of your condition. It will usually take place from where you were referred.

If you have special needs such as an interpreter or a wheelchair, please let the local health professional know and they will make a note of these when your consultation with the eye specialist is confirmed.

What happens in a video consultation?

A video consultation is very similar to a face-to-face consultation. It will normally involve you, the eye specialist and your local health professional. You may also choose your spouse, partner, family member or friend to accompany you.

Once the computer connection is established, the video consultation will proceed as per a standard face-to-face consultation. Depending on your condition it will usually take between 10-20 minutes

During the consult you should feel free to ask any questions or concerns you have regarding your condition.



If you would like to discuss anything privately with the specialist you may ask the local health professional to step out at any time. The same privacy and confidentiality requirements that apply to face-to-face consultations also apply to video consultations.

Do I have to participate in a video consultation?

No. You may attend a face-to-face consultation with your eye specialist if you would prefer. However, normal travel or waiting times will apply. A video consultation will only happen if your local health professional considers it safe and you approve.

Will the video consultation be recorded?

No video footage of your consult will be recorded. However, the eye specialist will record the details of your consult on a secure electronic medical record.

How much will it cost?

Medicare currently provides rebates for Telehealth consultations. This means that you will not have any out-of-pocket expenses.

Where can I find further information about Telehealth?

If you have any questions about Tele-ophthalmology please ask your local health professional or the eye specialist.