

# Information for Parents Following Discharge from the Orthoptic Clinic

## Patient Information

Orthoptic Department

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Your child has been assessed by the Orthoptist today and has achieved a normal response for their age.

The normal occurrence for squints is 2-5% of the population.

Research shows that there is a 2-3% chance that there may be an underlying condition that we have not been able to detect today.

One of the common reasons we see young children and babies is because of pseudo strabismus (false appearance of crossed eyes).

### Pseudo strabismus

Many young children & babies are often thought to have a squint (a turn in the eye) by parents, family or health care professionals. In the majority of cases the eyes are functioning normally but the child has a broad bridge of the nose or excess skin covering the corners of the eyes. In these cases it can look as if the eye is turning inwards even when it is not. This is known as pseudo strabismus or pseudo-squint.





This child has straight eyes. The light reflections in both eyes are the same. This is normal.

This is an example of pseudo-squint. The light reflections are the same in both eyes however, the broad bridge and excess skin gives the appearance of an inward turn. This is normal and as the child gets older this appearance will lessen.

## When should I be concerned about my child's eyes?

Strabismus (also known as a Squint or turn in the eye)

	
<p>This is an example of a convergent squint. The left eye is turning in. The light reflection is central on the right eye but on the left eye is to the outer edge of the pupil.</p>	<p>This is an example of a divergent squint. The light reflection is central on the left eye but towards the inner edge of the pupil of the right eye.</p>

If you notice your child's eye turning, a further assessment by an Orthoptist would be advised.

### Other things to look out for

- Does your child stand close to the television?  
This can be normal for many children, Try taking them further away from the television. Do they always move closer?
- Does your child hold books closer to see them?
- Does your child always move closer to look at near objects?
- Does your child screw their eyes up when they are watching television or when they want to see something?

If you are concerned about your child's eyes or vision please contact us. It is possible for things to change and we would always be happy to see your child should you be concerned.

### Routine Vision Screening

Every child in the Wigan Borough will be offered a vision screening test in their reception year at school. If they fail this test they will automatically be referred to the Eye Unit for a further assessment.

### Contact Details

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Eye Unit  
Wigan Health Centre  
Frog Lane  
Wigan  
WN6 7LB

Telephone: 01942 822310 (24 hour answer machine)

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## Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

## Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager  
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust  
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary  
Wigan Lane  
Wigan WN1 2NN

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## Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



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## How We Use Your Personal Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your personal information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website: [www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient\\_information/Leaflets/default.aspx](http://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient_information/Leaflets/default.aspx)

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This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille and other languages upon request. For more information call 01942 773105.

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