

# Contact Lens Charges Explained

This leaflet can be made available  
in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式  
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona  
w innych językach/formatach.

## Links

Additional information can be found at

<https://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcosts/Pages/nhs-voucher-values.aspx>

## Further Information

If you need any further assistance, please contact the Orthoptic Services Department on 01744 646816.

St Helens Hospital  
Marshall Cross Road,  
St Helens, Merseyside, WA9 3DA  
Telephone: 01744 26633



/sthknhs



@sthk.nhs

[www.sthk.nhs.uk](http://www.sthk.nhs.uk)

**Author:** Victoria Devlin & Rachel Bates  
**Department:** Orthoptics  
**Document Number:**  
**Version:** 001  
**Review date:** 08/07/2021

## Who is eligible for hospital contact lenses?

The Optometry Department at St. Helens Hospital provides a specialist contact lens service. This is for patients who have a medical need for contact lenses. Examples include some corneal problems, very high prescriptions and protective "bandage" or prosthetic lenses. The hospital will assess your eligibility.

## How do I obtain contact lenses?

You will be assessed in the optometry clinic by a specialist practitioner. The lens type will be selected according to your medical need. You will also receive instruction on how to look after the lenses.

Sometimes lenses need to be made to order. They may take some time to come into stock. You may require a separate appointment to have the lenses issued.

## How much do I have to pay for contact lenses?

There is a charge for contact lenses supplied by hospital eye clinics. This charge is set nationally by the Department of Health each year. Current charges are as follows:

**£57.00** per lens (6 months supply)

**£114.00** per pair (6 months supply)

NB Spare lenses or replacements for lost or broken/damaged lenses will be charged as above. There are no exemptions from charges for spare lenses or lenses which have been lost or broken/damaged.

## How do I pay for my lenses?

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, debit or credit card to General Office at St. Helens Hospital upon or prior to collection. Payments can be made in person or over the telephone on 01744 646469.

## Who is exempt from charges?

The following patients do not have to pay for contact lenses:

1. Those with bandage or non-sighted prosthetic/occlusive lenses
2. Children under 16, or over 16 but under 19 in full time education
3. Patients requiring a clinical change in contact lenses where a payment has been made within the last year
4. Patients who receive (or whose partner receives) one of the following benefits:
  - Income support
  - Employment & support allowance (income based)
  - Job seekers allowance (income based)
  - Pension credit (but only those receiving the *guarantee credit* element)
5. Those named on a valid HC2 certificate
6. Those entitled to, or named on, a valid NHS tax credit exemption certificate

Valid proof of eligibility will be required at the time of collection.

## Contact Lens Solutions

Contact lens after care products can also be supplied by the hospital. These items are subject to the standard NHS prescription charges (currently £8.60). You may find it is cheaper to buy these elsewhere.