

Orthoptic Department

Prisms and their care

Prisms

A prism is a wedge-shaped piece of glass or plastic that can bend the light that shines through it.

For this reason a prism can realign the eyes and can be used if a squint is small and symptoms are present.

Temporary prisms are plastic and are cut to fit on your glasses. If you don't wear glasses your Orthoptist can lend you a pair so prisms can still be used for your condition.



Different strengths of prism are available and your Orthoptist will determine the strength you require. These can be adapted as your condition alters.

Permanent prisms may be able to be incorporated into your glasses when the condition becomes stable; this depends on the strength of the prism. The lens will look like a normal glasses lens.

Things you may notice with a temporary prism:

- Slight blurring of vision
- Distortions
- A 'rainbow' effect
- Double vision when looking to the sides



Patient Information

How to take care of your prism:

- Do not remove the prism from your glasses
- Rinse the glasses lens under a gentle stream of warm water
- Use a soft toothbrush, if necessary to clean the grooves
- Pat dry with a soft lint free cloth
- If the prism comes off your lens, rinse and re-apply to the lens
- Contact your Orthoptist if you have any further problems

Contact details

Email - uhc-tr.OrthopticDept@nhs.net

Telephone – University Hospital (Coventry) 024 7696 6521
Hospital of St Cross (Rugby) 01788 663219

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact the Orthoptic department at University Hospital on 024 7696 6517 (or 01788 663219 for the Orthoptic department at the Hospital of St Cross, Rugby) and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

To give feedback on this leaflet please email: feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History

Department	Orthoptics
Contact:	26521
Updated:	January 2021
Review:	January 2023
Version	3.1
Reference:	HIC/LFT/1965/15