

NI PEARS PATIENT ELIGIBILITY - INCLUSION/ EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Patient Eligibility - INCLUSIONS:

1) Patients must be registered with a General Medical Practitioner (GP) in Northern Ireland and therefore have a current Health and Care Number (HCN).

AND

2) Patients must present with acute (sudden onset) eye related problems and **NOT be due for a routine GOS Sight Test.**

Note: In exceptional circumstances, where performing a GOS sight test may not be possible due to the patient's condition, a NI PEARS assessment may be permitted instead of a GOS test but this requires agreement with a HSCB optometric clinical adviser in line with procedures.

3) Patients may normally only access **one NI PEARS assessment and one follow-up per year.**

Note: In exceptional circumstances a patient may access a further NI PEARS assessment within a year but this requires agreement with a HSCB optometric clinical adviser in line with approval procedures.

Patient Eligibility - EXCLUSIONS:

The following patients are NOT eligible for a NI PEARS Assessment:

1) Ophthalmic conditions requiring immediate, urgent referral to HES. For example: acute trauma, penetrating eye injury, chemical burn, orbital cellulitis etc. Patients with these ophthalmic conditions should be referred immediately without optometric NI PEARS investigation and in line with Eye Casualty protocols.

2) Headaches in the absence of other symptoms - patients presenting with these symptoms may be entitled to a GOS sight test, if eligible. Please note eligibility includes application of the recommended Department of Health intervals for GOS Sight Tests. If the patient is not eligible GOS the optometrist should either provide a private sight test or advise the patient to attend their GP.

3) Problems related to glasses.

4) Patients with long term/chronic ophthalmic conditions. For example: diabetic retinopathy, long standing diplopia, long standing/previously investigated dry eye or blepharitis.

5) Children under 5 years old.