

Members of the public who acquire an eye problem should attend their GP, local Pharmacist or primarily a local Opticians which operates a scheme called 'NIPEARS' (Northern Ireland Primary Eye-care Assessment & Referral Service), so that they can be seen locally, at the right time, reducing the number who have to travel to RVH in Belfast.

Audits show that 60% of patients could have been successfully treated elsewhere closer to home.