

Driving with double vision (diplopia)

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net.

What is diplopia?

Diplopia is the medical term for double vision.

What causes diplopia?

Each eye is controlled by six muscles; eyes are designed to work as a coordinated pair. If one of the muscles becomes weak, your eyes are no longer able to work as a pair. This can result in diplopia (double vision).

How can I eliminate the double vision?

This can be achieved by using a prism. A prism can be attached to your own glasses or plain glasses to join/control the double vision. These prisms are called Fresnel prisms.

The orthoptist can provide you with a leaflet explaining more about Fresnel prisms and how to care for them.

Sometimes, due to the nature of double vision, it is not always possible to control it with a prism. In this case a patch or some tape on your glasses will be offered to cover one eye, to eliminate the second image. This will improve comfort and safety. It will not damage the eyesight or alter the cause of the problem but it will affect your depth perception.

Can I drive with double vision?

No. You **must** tell the DVLA if you have double vision.

You can report this online www.gov.uk/diplopia-and-driving

Or by completing a V1 form which can be downloaded from the above website or collected from a post office. If you are unable to do either, please tell your orthoptist and we will print you a copy.

“You can be fined up to £1,000 if you don’t tell DVLA about a medical condition that affects your driving. You may be prosecuted if you’re involved in an accident as a result.” *DVLA website*

