



## Patient Information

## Herpes Simplex Virus

Herpes simplex is the virus that causes cold sores and this can also affect the eye.

The herpes simplex virus (HSV) can cause an ulcer, called a dendritic ulcer, on the clear front surface of the eye known as the cornea.

Once you have had the cold sore infection the virus can remain dormant and may recur at a later date.

Symptoms include:

- Red eye
- Discomfort
- Watering
- Sensitivity to light

This condition is treated with an anti-viral ointment called ganciclovir, the commercial name is Virgan. This should be applied as prescribed, usually five times a day.

The ulcers may last up to two to three weeks but occasionally can last longer. The condition can recur. Typically this can be when you are feeling run down or following increased exposure to sunshine or wind such as can occur in the springtime.

If it does so you should ring Eye Clinic Triage for advice or an appointment:

**Eye Clinic Triage: 01793 604868**

Monday to Friday 09:00 to 21:00

Saturday/Sunday/Bank Holidays 09:00 to 13:00



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Smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

**This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email [gwh.pals@nhs.net](mailto:gwh.pals@nhs.net)**

**Document Control**

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