Your Corneal Transplant Surgery

The cornea
The cornea is the clear front part of the eye. Your doctor has recommended a corneal transplant because you are not able to see well through your cornea or it is causing pain. A donor cornea is used to replace the damaged or diseased part of your cornea.

You may have one of two types of surgery:
1. You may have a transplant where the donor cornea is sewn into place using a special microscope and very fine stitches. The stitches will be removed over a period of time. Do not expect your vision to be clear right away. It will get better over time.
2. You may have tissue replaced within your eye and have an air bubble placed in your eye. With this surgery, you may have to lie on your back for 24 hours at home.
After surgery

- If you have a general anesthetic, you will wake up in the recovery room. A nurse will be checking you often. You will stay there for an hour or so.
- You will feel some discomfort, but don’t worry. This is normal. We will give you medication to make you more comfortable.
- You must always wear a shield over your eye at night until your doctor tells you that it is no longer needed.
• You may be told to lie on your back for the next 24 hours.

You may:
› Wear your glasses or sunglasses.
› Blow your nose gently.
› Take a bath, shower, shave, and wash your hair. Keep your eye dry – do not get soapy water in your eye.
› Slowly resume your normal activities as your doctor suggests.
› Take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) for pain.
› Read.
› Watch TV.

Other tips
• Do not rub or touch your eye. You may wash gently around your eye. Dab your eye with a clean warm cloth if needed.
• You must not move quickly, or bang or jerk your head.
• Avoid becoming constipated. Drink plenty of fluids and eat a healthy diet with plenty of fruits and vegetables. If
needed, you may take a mild laxative or stool softener.

- **Do not** drive your car until your doctor says it’s OK.
- **Do not** push, pull or lift anything heavier than 5-10 pounds. If you wish to hold a child, sit in a chair and have him or her climb onto your lap.
- **Do not** resume contact sports until your doctor allows it.
- **Do not** wear a cotton eye pad at any time.
- **Do not** hold a sneeze – let it out through your mouth.

Keep follow-up visits with your doctor. Bring your medications and eye drops with you to these visits.

**Using eye drops**

Follow the eye medication schedule given to you by your nurse or doctor.

- Wash your hands well with soap and water.
• Shake the bottle well.
• Tilt your head back. You may sit or lie down.
• Open both eyes and look up. With one finger, draw the lower lid down.
• Holding the bottle in your other hand, place it as near as possible to the eyelid without touching it. Place one drop into the pocket made when the lower lid is pulled down.
• Do not touch your eyelid or eye with the tip of the bottle.
• Close your eye gently and keep it closed for one full minute. With a tissue, gently remove excess drops from your cheek.
• Wash your hands well after you finish putting in the drops.
• Do not stop using your drops.

If you have any questions, please ask.

We are here to help you.
QEII Health Sciences Centre

is made up of 10 buildings located on two sites

**Halifax Infirmary Site**

1. Halifax Infirmary
2. Abbie J. Lane Memorial Building
3. Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building

**VG Site**

4. Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre
5. Bethune Building
6. Mackenzie Building Laboratories
7. Centre for Clinical Research
8. Dickson Building
9. Victoria Building
10. Centennial Building

Please do not wear scented products when you come to the QEII.
Report these symptoms to your eye surgeon right away:
› Severe pain
› Nausea and/or vomiting
› Increasing swelling or redness
› Greenish discharge
› Sudden decrease in vision, or ‘floaters’ that are getting worse

If you can’t reach your eye surgeon, call locating at the Victoria General hospital at 902-473-2222 and ask to have the ophthalmology resident on call paged, or go to the nearest Emergency Department.