Iris Scanning –
Positive ID in the blink of an eye

To make identification quicker and easier during your visit, Iris Scanning has been introduced at London Bridge Hospital and its treatment centres.

Background Information

The iris is the coloured ring in the eye, and is unique to each individual. Iris Scanning is completely safe – the camera takes a digital picture of your iris using low power LED lighting and has no flash, no lasers or other harmful light sources. The software works by taking pattern data from the digital picture and then uses the pattern to recognise you. As the camera takes video continuously to get a picture that is clear and in focus, the initial enrolment may take a few moments, but after enrolment the iris identification system accurately retrieves your record in seconds.

Privacy: Iris pattern data is stored on a secured HCA server, behind a firewall, against your unique hospital identifier. HCA is fully committed to compliance with Data Protection Legislation and medical confidentiality guidelines.

Things to know:

- Iris Scanning can take place when wearing prescription contact lenses (coloured or cosmetic lenses need to be removed, e.g. 'cat eye' lenses).

- Glasses and sunglasses may cause a reflection so should be removed for the initial enrolment and, where possible, should be removed for recognition.

- The camera will take a close-up picture of your eye using a digital video camera.

- Stand about six inches (15cm) away from the camera and look into the round mirror so you can see the reflection of one eye in the mirror (you may find it easier to cover the other eye with your hand).

- Open your eye as wide as possible to avoid your iris being covered by your eyelid.

- A member of staff will guide you forwards or backwards to ensure you are in the right position.

- When positioning is correct a beep will sound and a green light on the front of the camera will flash.

- Once complete, a member of staff will confirm your personal details with you to ensure circumstances haven't changed.

- Initial registration will take several seconds for each eye as multiple images are required.

- The 'Server' translates the iris pattern into a unique identifier which is stored against your unique hospital number ('X' number).