

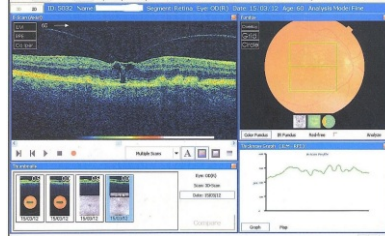
## Access to Care

Community health care should be accessible to everyone. Home visiting services are vital in bringing optometric care to housebound patients. However domiciliary services do not allow the best clinical care; they should always be a last resort.

## Why?

Cutting edge technology that we can supply is **BIG!**

Our Laser Scanning Technology allows visualisation of structures inside the retina; not previously possible. This allows earliest detection of retinal disorders such as Age Related Macula Degeneration and Diabetic changes.



Other scanners allow advanced mapping for optic nerve damage in glaucoma. These new technologies are used in conjunction with our traditional retinal photography, Scout corneal topographer and Medmont and Humphrey fields mappers. Since conditions requiring advanced technologies become more common as we age, it seems ridiculous not to be able to have access to them.

## Ophthalmoscope Vs Volk

For examining the retina we now use volk lenses at a slit lamp in preference to the traditional old fashioned ophthalmoscope. Because the volk equipment is not transportable we are forced to continue to use the ophthalmoscope for home visits. Since we no longer consider the ophthalmoscope adequate in the clinic, it is therefore difficult to justify its' continued use in someone's home.



## Lighting

The use of the ophthalmoscope is made especially difficult when the lighting cannot be dimmed sufficiently. This is a definite problem in people's homes, particularly in summer.

## Our Solution?

## The VAN!



We have noticed many patients we visit in their own homes are not truly housebound, but are simply less mobile. This makes it very difficult for them to access the clinic on their own. To make it as easy as possible for as many patients as possible, to actually attend a fully equipped optometry practice, we have our own dedicated patient transport vehicle.

The system is a response to our frustration at not being able to access the equipment in someone's home we use routinely in practice.

It is a service we supply free, it is not funded by the NHS but we feel it is too important not to make available.

## Home Visiting Service

This service is not meant to replace home based examinations. However, we do feel patients should be given the choice. Once we have explained the benefits of clinic based examinations, most patients have chosen to use the service if possible. When we carry out home visits now we know the patient must truly be housebound.