

PETER MCDONNELL

Firstname: Peter

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Function: Director

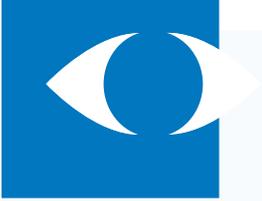


Measuring the Impact of Same Day Access

1. The Wilmer Institute began offering every caller a same day appointment
2. After three years, 50,000 patients have taken advantage of this program
3. 50% of these patients would have gone to a Hospital Emergency Department if the Same Day Access was not available
4. Retrospective analysis shows that Same Day Access results in care at lower cost, shorter visit times and superior patient experience
5. Same Day Access to Ophthalmology Clinics can limit Emergency Department volumes and reduce cost of care

Summary

The Wilmer Institute began a program of offering same day access to outpatient clinics to any patient or referring physician who desired same. Since instituting the program, 50,000 patients have received these appointments. Average charges for clinic visits (\$258) were substantially less than those for patients who, unaware of the same day access opportunity, presented to the Hospital Emergency Department (\$401). The duration of the visit was substantially shorter in the clinic than in the Emergency Department (1.6 hours v. 7 hours). The top 4 ophthalmic diagnoses for ED patients were conjunctivitis, cornea abrasion, iritis and visual loss; these problems are readily managed in the outpatient clinic setting. In a single calendar year, 4062 patient seen with same day appointments self-reported that they had urgent problems; the estimated savings for this group compared to an ED visit were \$580,866 in professional fees and \$3,176,484 in hospital charges. We conclude that substantial savings in time and money can be achieved when most urgent eye care is delivered in the outpatient ophthalmology clinic rather than in an ED in our urban academic medical center environment. These single-center results may not be generalizable.



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Descriptive CV

Dr. Peter McDonnell leads the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute as the sixth William Holland Wilmer Professor and Director. The Wilmer Institute, with over 200 full-time faculty, receives the most federal research funding and last year provided eye care for patients from throughout Maryland, from all 50 states and from 84 countries. Dr. McDonnell's research interests include dry eye disease, post-surgical endophthalmitis and nanotechnology for improved ocular drug delivery. He is the recipient of research grants from the National Eye Institute, Research to Prevent Blindness, and other funding agencies. He has published over 250 scientific articles and holds eight patents. In 2019, he was elected to the ARCS Foundation Hall of Fame in recognition of his scientific contributions to Ophthalmology.