St. Erik Eye Hospital –
a unique hospital in Sweden

St. Erik Eye Hospital is unique in Sweden as the only hospital to specialise in a single organ – the eye. We offer planned and emergency care, high-quality research and a broad variety of education and training.

Every day, we treat patients from Stockholm County, Sweden and abroad. We deal with nearly 200,000 patient visits every year. The hospital has 360 employees and is a limited liability company owned by Stockholm County Council.

Our vision

Our vision for St. Erik Eye Hospital is to be one of the world’s leading eye hospitals.
All specialist expertise regarding the eye has been brought together at St. Erik Eye Hospital.

20 years ago, several clinics in Stockholm merged to form St. Erik Eye Hospital. Today, we are ranked as one of the leading eye hospitals in Europe.

Our activities are conducted mainly in Kungsholmen, Stockholm. We also have clinics at Karolinska University Hospital and Danderyd University Hospital in Stockholm. In addition to our different clinics, we also operate emergency, nursing and surgical facilities as well as a sterile supply centre.

As the only hospital of our kind in Sweden, we have a major responsibility for generating and communicating new knowledge within ophthalmology. By taking part in international research and development, we are helping to advance eye care.

Our mission

**Comprehensive:** To offer a full range of ophthalmic services, under our own direction and via collaborative partners.

**Innovative:** We are a university hospital of the highest international class. We are a leader in research, development, education and training in partnership with Karolinska Institutet.

**Competence:** Our patients are cared for in a professional manner and treated with respect.
Our specialist areas

Accidents and emergencies
Our emergency department is staffed by eye specialists highly experienced in emergency eye care, together with ophthalmic nurses, assistant nurses and opticians. Every day, we meet around 90 patients with a variety of emergency eye conditions. This corresponds to approximately 30,000 patient visits a year.

Cataract
Every year, we perform around 5,000 cataract operations with the latest phaco-emulsification technology. We also help patients with special lenses.

Contact lenses
Our purpose-trained opticians specialise in complex lens adjustments for diseased and injured eyes and eyes that for various reasons need individually adapted lenses.

Cornea
St. Erik performs more corneal transplantations than any other eye clinic in Sweden. Our surgery includes different lamellar techniques. We also perform many cross-linking as well as medical excimer treatments. In addition, we manage a cornea bank where we prepare and store donor corneas for transplants.
Glaucoma
In the glaucoma field, we offer medical examinations and investigations, laser treatments and advanced surgical procedures tailored for the individual patient. We have modern equipment for diagnostics and also engage in research and development.

Medical and surgical retina
At St. Erik, you will find Scandinavia’s largest centre of ophthalmic care for the posterior parts of the eye. We specialise in medical and surgical treatments for the retina, macula and vitreous body. We conduct clinical and pre-clinical research in the field.

Neuro-ophthalmology
Our neuro-ophthalmology unit diagnoses and treats patients with visual and ocular motor pathway problems. We also operate a consulting service at Karolinska University Hospital.

Oculoplastic surgery
We have the largest oculoplastic and lacrimal surgery clinic in Sweden, treating patients from all over Sweden. Every year, we perform approximately 2,000 operations. We operate and treat tear duct conditions and injuries to the eyelid and eye socket. We are also responsible for diagnosing and treating tumours in the eye socket.

Oncology
We are responsible for Sweden’s national ophthalmic oncology and ophthalmic pathology service. We specialise in diagnosing and treating, above all, retinoblastoma and ocular melanoma. St. Erik also has the only ophthalmic pathology laboratory in Sweden.
**Orbit (eye socket)**
We diagnose and treat patients with inflammatory conditions in the eye socket and the extraocular muscles. We also perform orbital surgery and run a consulting service at Karolinska University Hospital, where on occasion we also perform surgery with other specialists, such as plastic surgeons.

**Paediatric ophthalmology and strabismus**
We have the largest clinic in the Nordic region for patients of all ages with strabismus and eye movement problems. As well as medical examinations and treatments, we perform corrective surgery and offer a comprehensive medical contact lens service for infants and young children.

**Refractive surgery**
We were among the first hospitals worldwide to start using excimer laser treatment. Our specialists use corneal laser surgeries or intraocular lens operations according to the needs of the individual patient.

**Uveitis**
We have specialists in diagnosing and treating patients with intraocular inflammation.
Our research is at the very forefront and has influenced how eye care is conducted today

St. Erik Eye Hospital is the most comprehensive ophthalmic and vision research institution in Sweden. Our translational research is conducted in close collaboration with Karolinska Institutet, a university with a long research tradition. This creates excellent conditions for the highest scientific standards and controlled research results.

Successful results
In recent years, several new treatment procedures have been developed. Many doctoral theses have been presented as a direct result of ophthalmic research at St. Erik. Several of our employees are researchers. As a result, knowledge based on contact with patients can be linked directly to our research. Similarly, we can quickly transfer our research findings into the development of treatment procedures. We also work with pharmaceutical companies and other parts of industry on various research projects.

A driving force in research
St. Erik Eye Hospital plays an important role in academic development. Every year, several members of staff present their theses to obtain a doctorate in medical science, and at least one physician qualifies as an associate professor.
We are one of Europe’s largest educational institutions within ophthalmology

St. Erik is a university hospital with close links to Karolinska Institutet. Through a variety of educational programmes, we develop and communicate our specialist knowledge and assure the supply of skills for the future. The educational programmes offered include various professions and levels, such as:

- Ophthalmology course within the medical programme
- Specialist training for ophthalmic nurses and orthoptists
- Optometry programme (B.Sc.)
- Master programme in clinical optometry
- Residency programme in ophthalmology
- Fellowships in various ophthalmology subspecialities
- Research education at doctoral level (Ph.D.)

Thanks to our size and coverage, we can offer broad, high-quality training that benefits our students and employees – and, in the long run, our patients.
Quality, patient safety and performance-driven development are priorities at St. Erik

To ensure a continuous focus on quality assurance, we have a quality group in place which consists of coordinators and representatives from all professional groups and units. All employees play a part in our work with quality assurance. We have clear goals that we monitor and account for every year.

Focus on improvements
We constantly examine our operations with a critical eye, reviewing procedures and improving processes to create an even more efficient and quality-focused organisation. Our systematic and preventive work on patient safety is a valuable instrument for improving the reliability of care. Involving patients and listening to their experience, for example via questionnaires and user groups, is another way of improving the way we work.

Follow-up of results
We are responsible for and participate in several national and international quality registers. This enables us to evaluate and benchmark our performance.
Our dedicated employees are one of our greatest strengths

St. Erik Eye Hospital is an attractive workplace, and our employees are proud to work here. There is great confidence in the skills and knowledge of our colleagues.

Development and involvement are prioritised

Our employees are offered many opportunities for personal growth and competence development. Their involvement is prioritised, and short decision-making processes often lead to quick actions which help to develop the organisation. Working in various interdisciplinary teams stimulates learning, exchanges and constant progress.

Different categories of personnel working together for the patient

We have 360 employees (2011) in the following categories:

- 87 physicians
- 100 nurses
- 17 orthoptists
- 55 assistant nurses
- 7 optometrists/opticians
- 4 biomedical analysts
- 2 medical equipment engineers
- 57 office assistants and medical secretaries
- 25 administrative employees
- 6 miscellaneous personnel
Our aim is to provide safe and accessible care

At St. Erik, patients are given the information they need to be able to feel secure. Patients’ experiences communicated through, for example, dialogue, user groups and regular surveys, provide feedback that contributes to improvements.

Accessibility is prioritised
Eye care must be readily available to the citizens of Stockholm. For that reason, we carry out eye examinations on patients with diabetes at their own health centres, and we visit child healthcare centres located around the county. We also operate consulting services at other hospitals.

To make it easier for our patients to get appointments, we also run evening and weekend clinics. Efficient IT and telephony systems also play an important role in our work to ensure accessibility.

Care at the right time
We strive intensively to offer appointments and treatments in accordance with the guidelines for Stockholm County Council’s care guarantee.
We will remain one of the driving forces behind the development of eye care

Through innovation and focused efforts, we will continue our endeavours to become one of the leading eye hospitals in the world. To reach that goal, we must dare to adopt new approaches and new methods.

Development of new Eye Center of Excellence

We intend to be a driving force in creating an Eye Center of Excellence in the new Hagastaden area in Stockholm, set to be one of the world’s leading research and enterprise environments. This will enable us to strengthen the link between advanced eye care, research, education and industry.

Partnerships shape the future

We are constantly developing partnerships with other players. This enables us to take greater overall responsibility for the patient’s best, more effective care procedures and better opportunities for the future development of eye care.
# Quick facts*

## Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inpatient care beds</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day surgery beds</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating theatres</td>
<td>9</td>
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</table>

## Care provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Care Provided</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient care visits</td>
<td>162,878</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inpatient care cases</td>
<td>1,654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency visits</td>
<td>30,729</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of operations</td>
<td>11,000</td>
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<td>Retinal photography</td>
<td>19,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnover (SEK million)</td>
<td>410</td>
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*Figures for 2010.