

This triage guidance is for Emergency Department (ED) doctors and Community Optometrists

- All **RED** conditions should be referred to ED on the same day and ED can contact ophthalmology to discuss (see Contact Details below).
- All **YELLOW** conditions (whether seen by ED or Optometrist) can be discussed with ophthalmology (see Contact Details below) for an eye clinic appointment within 24-72 hours. If out of hours, please contact Oncall Ophthalmologist to discuss.
- All **GREEN** conditions can be seen by an optometrist first and do not require ED. If an optometrist wishes to have a second opinion, please refer via a letter.

| | Emergency (same day) - with phone call | Urgent (24-72 hours) - with phone call | Optometrist assessment first – if 2 nd opinion needed, refer via letter |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| Anterior | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chemical injury (use topical anaesthetic then irrigate with NaCl 0.9% or cold tap water until pH 7) - Suspected open globe injury - Embedded foreign body - Orbital cellulitis - Eyelid laceration - Post operative cataract (within 30 days) with symptoms of decreased vision/ red or painful eye - Acute proptosis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Painful eye (keeping patient awake) - Scleritis - Corneal ulcer - Hyphema - Blunt trauma - Herpetic infections (simplex/zoster/shingles with visual disturbance and eye symptoms). - Corneal epithelial defect - Preseptal/suspected orbital cellulitis - Burns involving the face - Acute dacryocystitis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nasolacrimal duct obstruction - Conjunctivitis (consider GP/Pharmacy) - Episcleritis - Keratoconus - Chronic proptosis/exophthalmos - Recurrent corneal erosion - Corneal dystrophy - Cysts/Chalazia (can be treated with warm compresses and lid hygiene) - White reflex in a child |
| Posterior | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retinal tears - Retinal detachment - Optic neuritis - Retinal mass - Vitreous haemorrhage - Retinal haemorrhage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Naevus (close to disc or macula, presence of lipofuscin, subretinal fluid) - Retinitis Pigmentosa/dystrophy - Retinal pigmentation/macular changes |
| Visual Loss | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-specific blurry vision * - Bilateral transient loss of vision * - Gradual loss of vision * <p>*If optometrist unclear about cause</p> |
| Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acute ophthalmoplegia - Acute ptosis - Suspected nerve palsy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New pupillary defects - New nystagmus - Acute diplopia | |

Paediatric “Swollen disc” Triage guidance

| | Swollen Disc ?Papilloedema | Action to Take |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Routine incidental finding, good visual function (acuity, colour vision, visual fields to confrontation) and asymptomatic | Routine ophthalmology letter referral |
| 2 | Routine incidental finding, good visual function but with non-specific symptoms | Routine ophthalmology letter referral (but can call to discuss) |
| 3 | Symptomatic (headache, worse on laying flat/bending over, visual obscurations, pulsatile tinnitus, focal neurological symptoms) with obvious disc swelling +- disc haemorrhages | Same day hospital referral (call eye Clinic/on-call) |

Contact Details

- 9am to 5pm: Alder Hey Eye department contact number: 0151 252 5215 & referral address: Ophthalmology Eye Clinic department, Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust, Eaton Road, Liverpool, L122AP. Note: **FAX is no longer encouraged**
- Outside clinic hours: Call Alder Hey switchboard on 01512284811 and ask for ophthalmology registrar on-call
- For optometrists: after the phone call you may be asked to send us further information via the email refertoalderhey@nhs.net
- For ED doctors: after the phone call you may be asked to send us further information via the email eye.handover@alderhey.nhs.uk
- For adult patients (17 years and above) contact/refer to St Paul's Eye Hospital located in: Royal Liverpool University Hospital, Prescott St, Liverpool L78XP. Telephone: 01517062000
- ED Triage Telephone number to contact is 01512283196 or 01512283709

Please **NOTE**: Do not ask **Yellow** or **Green** patients to walk into Alder Hey ED and do not ask paediatric patients to walk into St Paul's.