

RCH OPHTHALMOLOGY DEPARTMENT REFERRAL PRIORITY GUIDELINES

(Updated July 2024)

Under 16 years of age

<p>Group 1 / Urgent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cataract • Corneal opacity • Diplopia – new onset • Glaucoma or Glaucoma Suspect • Newborn Sticky eyes (up to 2 weeks age) • Nystagmus-new or sudden onset • Neurological Strabismus • Non-accidental injury (suspected) • Painful red eye with loss of vision • Pale optic nerve head / optic atrophy • Papilloedema/optic nerve head swelling • Peri orbital and Orbital Cellulitis • Proptosis • Pupil defect – recent onset • Retinopathy of prematurity • Retinoblastoma • Retinal tumors • Retinal Detachment <2 years of age (will need co-management with Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital) (Retinal Detachment >2years of age refer to Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital). • Sudden visual loss • Trauma • Uveitis 	<p>Phone the Ophthalmology Registrar on call on (03) 9345 5522 to obtain appropriate prioritization.</p> <p>Fax referral with parent's phone contact details to (03) 9345 5034</p> <p>Please send any images or scans to assist with triage to: eye.triage@rch.org.au</p>
<p>Group 2 / Routine (3-12 months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amblyopia* • Haemangioma – see Referral Guidelines by Diagnosis • Chronic Chalazia (large)* • Eyelids/malposition i.e. epiblepharon, ectropion, entropion, ptosis. • Strabismus-Non Neurological*: Squint / esotropia / exotropia / hypertropia / hypotropia • Nystagmus – longstanding* • Pupil defect – longstanding* 	<p>May require follow up with local eye care provider in first instance.</p> <p>Please send images or scans to assist with triage to eye.triage@rch.org.au</p> <p>Age and other comorbidities will affect triage criteria.</p> <p>* See referral guidelines by diagnosis.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dermoid* • Sticky eyes/blocked tear ducts if symptoms >12 months* 	<p>See list of external eye care providers.</p>
<p>Group 3 / Referral will be rejected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine vision check/screening • Myopia (including myopia progression, & non-syndromic <8 Dioptres) • Spectacle/glasses check • Child older than 8 years old who requires glasses for any reason and has not required amblyopia treatment • Child older than 10 years old who requires glasses for any reason and has had amblyopia treatment in the past • Chalazia (Meibomian cyst, eyelid cyst – unless large and chronic) * • All Itchy eyes/Hay fever/Blepharitis* (unless corneal involvement, or referred from internal source e.g. allergy/immunology) • All new referrals for children >12years old for longstanding strabismus, blurred vision or headaches. • Colour vision defect (isolated)* 	<p>These conditions are not routinely seen at the Royal Children’s Hospital and the referral will be rejected.</p> <p>Recommend referral to and follow up with external eye care provider.</p> <p>See list of external eye care providers.</p> <p>If patient has developmental delay and/or complex medical history and/or requires interpreter – consider referral to the Australian College of Optometry</p> <p>* See referral guidelines by diagnosis.</p>
<p>Please note:</p> <p><u>For more detailed referral information see “RCH Referral Guidelines by Diagnosis”.</u></p> <p>If you are concerned about the delay of the outpatient appointment or if there is any deterioration in the patient’s condition, please contact one of the below numbers:</p> <p>Ophthalmology Department: (03) 9345 6347</p> <p>Ophthalmology Registrar on call: (03) 9345 5522</p> <p>Referral Triage coordinator: (03) 9345 4117</p> <p>Please send any images or scans to eye.triage@rch.org.au to assist with referral triage.</p>	