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Sight loss: Referral guide – when and who

This factsheet covers when you should refer various eye conditions, and who to refer to.

IMMEDIATE Contact on call ophthalmologist at your local hospital	WITHIN 24 HOURS Make appointment via local eye clinic	WITHIN ONE WEEK Fax or send first class post referral letter to eye clinic	NOT EMERGENCIES Routine referral if unable to manage in practice
Acute glaucoma	Arc eye	Sudden / recent onset of diplopia	Allergic conjunctivitis
Chemical burn* (Check PH & irrigate first)	Corneal abrasion	Sudden / recent onset of distortion in vision or suspected wet AMD	Mild – mod conjunctivitis
Corneal laceration	Corneal FB	Entropion that is painful	Blepharitis
Globe perforation	Sub tarsal FB (only if unsure of diagnosis or can't manage appropriately)	HZO with eye involvement	Chalazion
Intra ocular FB	Blunt trauma	Episcleritis (if can't manage appropriately)	Dry eyes
Hypopyon (pus in anterior chamber)	Contact lens related problems	Scleritis	Ectropion
Iris prolapse *Cover with an eye shield	Corneal graft patients	PVD	Watery eye



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Orbital cellulitis	Corneal ulcers or painful / corneal opacities	Bells palsy	Sub conjunctival haemorrhage
Central retinal artery occlusion (under 8 hours)	Hyphaema	Optic neuritis	Non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy
Giant cell arteritis with visual disturbance	Iritis	Severe infective conjunctivitis	Squint – gradual onset or longstanding
Sudden explained severe visual loss of less than 12 hours	Lid laceration	Vein occlusions	Cataract
Painful eye in post op intra- ocular surgery (less than 2 months post op)	Orbital fractures	Proliferative diabetic retinopathy	
Acute 3rd nerve palsy if pupil involvement or pain	Painful eye		
	Retinal detachment / tear		
	Vitreous haemorrhage		
	Sudden loss of vision of more than 12 hours		
	Neonatal conjunctivitis		
	White pupil in children/lack of red reflex		



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How to contact Moorfields for ophthalmic clinical queries

Urgent ophthalmic medical queries

If you are a Health Professional (GP, Optometrist or Pharmacist) with an urgent clinical query and would like to speak to a Moorfields SPR /Fellow directly then please call the switchboard on 020 7253 3411 and ask to be put through to the Doctor on call.

Non-urgent ophthalmic medical enquiries

Moorfields Direct, is a nurse-led telephone helpline, you can call 020 7566 2345 for general information and advice about eye conditions and treatments.

The helpline is open from 9am to 9pm, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm on Saturdays, and is staffed by experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

At busy times, the nurses might not be able to answer your call straight away. Please hold or call back a little later if this happens.

Further resources

The information in this factsheet is taken from a suite of resources for health professionals produced by Moorfields Eye Hospital which includes:

A GP handbook

Developed by Moorfields' clinicians in response to requests from GPs, the handbook covers a range of common eye conditions. It includes a dedicated section on care pathways to help with the management of low-risk conditions without the need for onward referral. It also includes referral advice and information, and a concise overview of Moorfields' sites and services.



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GP teaching and events

Moorfields offer a professional development programme for GPs delivered by leading consultant ophthalmologists to help improve patient care, and closer working relationships between consultants and primary care professionals.

GP news

Provides GPs with up to date information, news and developments about Moorfields.

The full suite of resources can be accessed at:

<http://www.moorfields.nhs.uk/audience/health-professionals>

Acknowledgements

The information in this factsheet was compiled by Alia Majid, GP relationship and business development manager at Moorfields Eye Hospital.