

EAST KENT HOSPITALS NHS TRUST
HEAD & NECK DIRECTORATE
EMERGENCY REFERRAL : GUIDELINES
OPHTHALMOLOGY

The following Guidelines have been produced to assist East Kent General Practitioners and Optometrists and their patients to access specialist Ophthalmic clinical opinion and treatment **in emergency circumstances** at the appropriate time and service location. When: Emergency clinics are held in the afternoon Monday to Thursday 2-5pm and on Friday mornings 9-1pm.

Category 1:

- Fax to Ophthalmic eye casualty as emergency – this is located on the Rotary Ward at WHH hospital – use Fax referral - Rotary Ward fax 01233 616243
- referral to the emergency clinic by proforma by fax to 01233 616243 or by telephone during the morning on 01233 616232
- out of hours discuss with the on call team

Conditions include:

- Penetrating trauma
- Alkali burns
- Proven retinal detachment
- Severe orbital cellulitis
- Acute angle closure Glaucoma with proven raised pressure(s)
- Post-op endophthalmitis

Category 2:

- **In need of Ophthalmic review/management within 48 hours of GP assessment** - via fax referral to nearest main site

Conditions include:

Blunt trauma involving the eye

- Unilateral red eye less than 48 hour duration
- Any corneal ulcer
- Sudden uniocular blindness
- Any referral with intraocular pressure over 40mm Hg.
- Any post-operative patient (within 4 weeks) with symptoms of pain or blurring of vision.
- Patient presenting with combination of flashes and floaters in one eye.

Category 3:

- **Urgent clinical review required (within 7 days)** – by urgent referral letter (sent or faxed) requesting urgent review

Conditions include:

- Cases of red eye (not applicable to Casualty)
- Chronic red eye
- Sudden onset of double vision