



Queensland  
Government

Children's Health Services

Royal Children's Hospital

**Ophthalmology**

**Consultant Clinics**

**Droopy eye lid (ptosis)**

**Initial work-up**

Please check the following  
→ Assess ptosis – is the eyelid covering all of or any part of the pupil



Severe



Moderate



Mild

- Check visual acuity if child is of an appropriate age. If the child is too young to check visual acuity, ascertain whether the child can fix and follow. For toddlers try a toy, for infants try a toy or a light.
- Check ocular motility. Ask the child to look at the roof, down at the ground, and side to side. If child too young, again try a toy or a light.
- Perform fundus examination and note presence/absence of red and white reflex.
- Assess pupillary reactions and sizes

**Refer when**

- **Neonates**
  - If normal, re-assess in 2 months
  - If assessment results are abnormal or if ptosis persists past 2 months of age
    - **IMMEDIATE REFERRAL**
    - **Please call on-call OPHTHALMOLOGY REGISTRAR on (07) 3636 3777 and send referral to addresses below. Highlight URGENT referral**
- **Older infant and child**
  - Droopy eyelid obstructing vision (moderate to severe)
  - Sudden onset of droopy eyelid
    - **IMMEDIATE REFERRAL**
    - **Please call on-call OPHTHALMOLOGY REGISTRAR on (07) 3636 3777 and send referral to addresses below. Highlight URGENT referral**
- **Any child with a droopy eyelid that does not obstruct the pupil (mild) – REFER SEMI-URGENTLY**
- **Older child (age 9 years +) with history of congenital droopy eyelid – REFER NON-URGENTLY for evaluation**

Provision of named referrals for all patients referred to the RCH will expedite patient access

Clinical Advice: Tel (07) 3636 3777 and ask for Paediatric Ophthalmology Registrar or A/H (07) 3636 9005 Emergency Department

Referral Form Download: [http://www.health.qld.gov.au/rch/professionals/gp\\_referrals.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/rch/professionals/gp_referrals.asp)

Send Referrals to: Medical Objects Address – QHEALTH, ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL Fax: (07) 3636 7811 Mail: Outpatients Department  
HealthLink Address - [qldrchld](http://qldrchld) Royal Children's Hospital Herston Rd, HERSTON 4029

## Paediatrics Pre-referral Guidelines – Ophthalmology



### Contact us

RCH Switchboard	(07) 3636 3777
Emergency Department	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GPs only (clinical advice) (07) 3636 9005</li> <li>• General enquiries (07) 3636 8085</li> <li>• Triage nurse (07) 3636 7900</li> <li>• ED Admission enquiries (07) 3636 7700</li> </ul>	
Admission Enquiries	(07) 3636 8307
Admission Enquiries After Hours (via the RCH Main Switch)	(07) 3636 3777
Poisons Information Centre	131126
<b>Seriously Unwell Child: RCH Emergency Department</b>	<b>(07) 3636 9005</b>

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These guidelines were reviewed and developed by specialists at the Royal Children's Hospital and reviewed by a working group of metropolitan general practitioners in Queensland.

Feedback or suggestions welcomed. Contact the **Patient Safety and Quality Unit**: [CHSD-PSQU@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:CHSD-PSQU@health.qld.gov.au)

**Last reviewed:** September 2010

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