



Queensland  
Government

Children's Health Services

Royal Children's Hospital

**Ophthalmology**

**Consultant Clinics**

**Red eye (or 'pink' eye)**

**Initial work-up**

For children presenting with a red or pink eye, please do the following:

- Obtain a history concentrating on the possibility of ocular trauma, contact lens wear, time course of the redness and the presence of eye pain, itch and discharge
- Carefully inspect the eyelids, everting to examine the under surface
- Stain with fluorescein to check for corneal abrasions or ulcers

**Refer when**

All the following presentations require an **IMMEDIATE REFERRAL**

→ **Please call on-call PAEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY REGISTRAR on (07) 3636 3777 and send referral to addresses below. Highlight URGENT referral**

- Child complains of pain, photophobia, watery discharge (could denote the presence of a foreign body, corneal ulcer, herpetic ulcer, acute glaucoma)
- Dull, aching eye pain (could indicate iritis, scleritis, episcleritis)
- Subconjunctival haemorrhage (could denote trauma, vigorous coughing or vomiting, or viral conjunctivitis)
- Focal conjunctival injection or iris injury (caused by trauma)
- Purulent discharge (could denote infective conjunctivitis)
  - **Treat with eye toilet and chloramphenicol drops second hourly**
  - **IMMEDIATE REFERRAL if treatment is ineffective in 48hrs**
- Child complains of itchiness, eyelid swelling and redness, watery discharge (could denote allergic conjunctivitis)
  - **Treat with antihistamines (oral or topical) and artificial tears prn'**
  - **IMMEDIATE REFERRAL if treatment in ineffective in 48hrs**

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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