



Queensland
Government

Children's Health Services

Royal Children's Hospital

Ophthalmology

Consultant Clinics

Eye turns or squints (Strabismus)

Initial work-up

- 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.
- Note any behavioural issues (was child hard to assess)

Refer when

A. EYE TURNING IN (ESOTROPIA)

- **Intermittent/ Variable** turning in of the eye before 4 months of age. **DO NOT REFER** – this is normal for infants
- **Intermittent/Variable** turning in of the eye after 4 months of age. **REFER SEMI-URGENTLY** – for evaluation of strabismus
- **Constant** large turning in of the eye before and after 4 months of age. **REFER SEMI-URGENTLY** – for evaluation of strabismus
- **True acute onset** of constant esotropia at **any age**

→ **IMMEDIATE REFERRAL**

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

B. EYE TURNING OUT (EXOTROPIA)

- **Intermittent** turning out of the eye up to the age of 9 years. **REFER NON-URGENTLY**
- **Intermittent** turning out of the eye after 9 years of age. **REFER** to local ophthalmologist/optometrist
- **True acute onset** of constant exotropia at **any age**

→ **IMMEDIATE REFERRAL**

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

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

Send Referrals to: Medical Objects Address – QHEALTH, ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL Fax: (07) 3636 7811 Mail: Outpatients Department

HealthLink Address - qldrchld

**Royal Children's Hospital
Herston Rd, HERSTON 4029**

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

Paediatrics Pre-referral Guidelines – Ophthalmology



Contact us

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

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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

Last reviewed: September 2010

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