

Eye Care: Essential, Urgent Care - All Requiring Professional Judgement

Consider the following examples:

1. Sight threatening acute ocular symptoms causing professional concern
2. Previously diagnosed acute, sight threatening condition - Follow up care
3. Ocular surgery or procedure customary follow up
4. Acute eye pain
5. Pain, redness, light sensitivity: COVID-19 has conjunctivitis component (reported 3/4/2020)
 - Acute iritis or other conjunctivitis
 - Contact lens related symptoms of concern
 - Possible acute angle closure symptoms
6. Ocular discharge causing professional concern
7. Sudden loss of vision
8. Gradual vision loss description causing professional concern
9. Halos
10. Flashes of light
11. Floaters of new onset
12. Ptosis of new onset
13. Diplopia of new onset
14. Ocular trauma: Blunt force trauma
 - Foreign body
 - Chemical burn
 - Other injury types
15. Urgent need for spectacle/ contact lens replacement: First responder or critical care health worker
Unable to function and no back up vision correction
16. Known ocular health conditions not under good control (Professional judgement)

Precautions: Vary based on the patients level of risk for COVID19

1. Triage patients prior to allowing them into office
2. Isolate any patient suspected of COVID-19 infection – take patient straight to exam room with mask on
3. Disinfect all equipment and examination rooms properly and according to CDC guidance: every patient
4. Provider protection for mouth, nose and eyes is recommended when seeing potential COVID19 patient (includes face shield on microscope/doctor or patient not speaker while at slit lamp)

Other Considerations

If proper personal protective equipment ([PPE](#)) is unavailable, refer immediately to appropriately supplied clinic (avoid hospital if possible but could be considered)

Establish communication with normal referral providers to ensure understanding of their policies, if necessary

Use telehealth options approved by Medicare and many private insurers (NC Medicaid coverage for Optometry should occur April 7, 2020)

For telehealth, may use most **private, real time audio visual technology** (i.e. Skype, Zoom, Face Time)

National Resources

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

AOA COVID Response: www.aoa.org/coronavirus

Coronavirus in Ophthalmology Practices: <https://www.aao.org/headline/alert-important-coronavirus-context>