

STATEWIDE REFERRAL CRITERIA – OPHTHALMOLOGY

CONDITION	URGENT REVIEW – ED OR CONSULTANT	OUTPATIENT REFERRAL CRITERIA	INFORMATION REQUIRED WITH REFERRAL	REFERRAL NOT ACCEPTED
All outpatient referrals for these conditions should be triaged according to the criteria and should be declined if they do not meet the criteria				
Age related macular degeneration	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New onset of reduced central vision and / or distortion due to neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD) 	<p>Mandatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive eye & vision assessment (usually performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist) with refraction and dilated retinal examination, for both eyes • Onset, severity and duration symptoms <p>Desired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optical coherence tomography (OCT) results • If patient identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review or treatment of neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD) • Early intermediate or geographic atrophy (dry) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
Assessment for cataract surgery	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient requests surgery for documented cataract with either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ significant disabling symptoms that affect the person’s activities of daily living (e.g. light or glare sensitivity, ability to drive, recognise faces, work or self-care, increased risk of falls) 	<p>Mandatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient must be willing to have surgery • Comprehensive eye and vision assessment (usually performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist) with refraction and dilated retinal examination that includes best corrected visual acuity (i.e. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the patient is not willing to have surgical treatment • Lens opacities that do not have a significant impact on the person’s activities of daily living • Prior to the person’s vision being corrected

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All outpatient referrals for these conditions should be triaged according to the criteria and should be declined if they do not meet the criteria				
Corneal conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden loss of vision • Corneal graft rejection • Contact lens keratitis or corneal ulcers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ visual acuity 6/12 or worse in the affected eye • Corneal and ocular surface conditions including: 	<p>measured with spectacles or contact lenses) for both eyes and performed in the last 3 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onset, severity and duration symptoms • Functional impact of symptoms on daily activities including impact on work, study or carer role <p>Desired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicate if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ unable to visualise the retina during the eye and vision assessment ○ the person is a commercial driver ○ the person is a carer ○ the person identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander <p>Mandatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive eye and vision assessment (usually performed by an optometrist or 	<p>with spectacles, contact lenses, or the use of visual aids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry eyes • Blepharitis • Asymptomatic pterygium.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedded foreign body in the eye • Traumatic eye injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progressive corneal conditions causing vision loss ○ Corneal melting disorders ○ Filamentary keratopathy ○ Graft versus host disease ○ New pigmented corneal or conjunctival lesions ○ Ocular surface squamous neoplasia ○ Patient requires corneal transplant ○ Progressive cicatrising conjunctivitis ○ Progressive keratoconus ○ Symptomatic pterygium ○ Symptomatic, recurrent corneal erosion syndrome 	<p>ophthalmologist) with refraction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onset, severity and duration symptoms <p>Desired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any history of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ herpetic eye disease ○ corneal transplant ○ contact lens use ○ traumatic eye injury ○ eye surgery • If the person identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander 	
Diabetic eye disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden loss of vision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR) • Assessment of severe non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy threatening vision • Vitreous haemorrhage in a person with diabetes 	<p>Mandatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive eye and vision assessment usually performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, with refraction and dilated retinal examination, for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye screening in patients with diabetes • Review of diabetic retinopathy (including during pregnancy)

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<p>Glaucoma</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden loss of vision associated with raised intraocular pressure (e.g. acute angle-closure glaucoma) 	<p>The management of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advanced glaucoma • unstable, progressive glaucoma 	<p style="text-align: center;">both eyes performed in the last 3 months</p> <p>Mandatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive eye and vision assessment performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, with refraction, that includes intraocular pressure, central corneal thickness and visual field test for both eyes performed in the last 3 months. • Presence of any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ secondary glaucoma ○ if the patient has only one seeing eye ○ multiple ocular surgeries ○ ocular trauma <p>Desired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optical coherence tomography (OCT) including retinal nerve fiber layer results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests for the diagnosis or ongoing management of glaucoma suspect, ocular hypertension or stable early and moderate glaucoma

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optic disc photos • Gonioscopy test results • If the person identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander 	

Additional information: People experiencing disadvantage or other barriers to accessing eyecare services may be eligible to receive services through the [Victorian Eyecare Service](#)

Age related macular degeneration	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New onset of reduced central vision and / or distortion due to neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD) 	<p>Mandatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive eye & vision assessment (usually performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist) with refraction and dilated retinal examination, for both eyes • Onset, severity and duration symptoms <p>Desired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optical coherence tomography (OCT) results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review or treatment of neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD) • Early intermediate or geographic atrophy (dry) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If patient identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander 	
<p>Assessment for cataract surgery</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient requests surgery for documented cataract with either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ significant disabling symptoms that affect the person’s activities of daily living (e.g. light or glare sensitivity, ability to drive, recognise faces, work or self-care, increased risk of falls) ○ visual acuity 6/12 or worse in the affected eye 	<p>Mandatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient must be willing to have surgery • Comprehensive eye and vision assessment (usually performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist) with refraction and dilated retinal examination that includes best corrected visual acuity (i.e. measured with spectacles or contact lenses) for both eyes and performed in the last 3 months • Onset, severity and duration symptoms • Functional impact of symptoms on daily activities including impact on work, study or carer role <p>Desired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicate if: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the patient is not willing to have surgical treatment • Lens opacities that do not have a significant impact on the person’s activities of daily living • Prior to the person’s vision being corrected with spectacles, contact lenses, or the use of visual aids

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<p>All outpatient referrals for these conditions should be triaged according to the criteria and should be declined if they do not meet the criteria</p>				
<p>Corneal conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden loss of vision • Corneal graft rejection • Contact lens keratitis or corneal ulcers • Embedded foreign body in the eye • Traumatic eye injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corneal and ocular surface conditions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progressive corneal conditions causing vision loss ○ Corneal melting disorders ○ Filamentary keratopathy ○ Graft versus host disease ○ New pigmented corneal or conjunctival lesions ○ Ocular surface squamous neoplasia ○ Patient requires corneal transplant ○ Progressive cicatrising conjunctivitis ○ Progressive keratoconus ○ Symptomatic pterygium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ unable to visualise the retina during the eye and vision assessment ○ the person is a commercial driver ○ the person is a carer ○ the person identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander <p>Mandatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive eye and vision assessment (usually performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist) with refraction. • Onset, severity and duration symptoms <p>Desired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any history of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ herpetic eye disease ○ corneal transplant ○ contact lens use ○ traumatic eye injury ○ eye surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry eyes • Blepharitis • Asymptomatic pterygium.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Symptomatic, recurrent corneal erosion syndrome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the person identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander 	
Diabetic eye disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden loss of vision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR) • Assessment of severe non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy threatening vision • Vitreous haemorrhage in a person with diabetes 	<p>Mandatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive eye and vision assessment usually performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, with refraction and dilated retinal examination, for both eyes performed in the last 3 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye screening in patients with diabetes • Review of diabetic retinopathy (including during pregnancy)
Glaucoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden loss of vision associated with raised intraocular pressure (e.g. acute angle-closure glaucoma) 	<p>The management of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advanced glaucoma • unstable, progressive glaucoma 	<p>Mandatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive eye and vision assessment performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, with refraction, that includes intraocular pressure, central corneal thickness and visual field test for both eyes performed in the last 3 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests for the diagnosis or ongoing management of glaucoma suspect, ocular hypertension or stable early and moderate glaucoma

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