

Triage and Ocular Emergencies

Classifications:

Emergent – Immediate examination is required.

Urgent – Examination within 24-48 hours

Elective/Routine – Examination in 1-2 weeks

10 Basic Questions:

- 1. What is the problem?**
- 2. When did the problem start?**
- 3. Is the eye painful?**
- 4. Which eye, right eye, left eye, or both?**
- 5. Are there any vision changes?**
- 6. Is this an injury? How was it injured? When was it injured?**
- 7. Do you have any chronic eye problems or conditions? Do you use any eye drops?**
- 8. Are you monocular?**
- 9. Have you had recent eye surgery, laser, or other eye procedure?**
- 10. Do you wear contact lenses?**

Your Role

- 1. Be calm, courteous, and reassuring.**
- 2. Determine the chief complaint.**
- 3. Listen to the patient, they often know how serious their situation is.**
- 4. When in doubt error on the side of caution.**
- 5. Don't hesitate to ask questions to your supervisor or physician if you are unsure.**