

Emergency Triage Key

ASAP = As soon as possible today. The sooner the better. Hours count. Before 4:00 PM if possible.

TODAY = Sometime today. Not as urgent as ASAP. Before 4:00 PM if possible.

SOON = Within the next few days. It's important to see the patient sooner than usual.

REG = Schedule for next open appointment. Probably not urgent.

CHIEF COMPLAINT		APPOINTMENT
BLOW	To the eye or nearby area	TODAY
BURNING	Sensation	SOON
CHEMICALS in eye <i>Tell patient to rinse IMMEDIATELY for 30 minutes with saline, if possible, otherwise just use tap water. Have someone else talk with you on the phone while the patient irrigates.</i>		ASAP
DECREASED VISION Sudden onset Over a period of days Over a period of weeks		ASAP SOON REG
DISCHARGE If yellow or green and eye is red If clear or pearly, whitish		TODAY SOON
DOUBLE VISION	Sudden onset	TODAY
DROOPING LID VERY sudden onset Has been puffy over a few days		TODAY SOON
FOREIGN BODY	Or the feeling of one	TODAY
LOSS OF VISION Sudden onset, with or without pain Gradual, without pain		ASAP SOON
ODD or UNUSUAL VISION: CLOUDY VEIL		ASAP
CURTAIN	Rising or falling in front of vision	ASAP
FLASHING LIGHTS		ASAP

FLOATERS:	Sudden onset Noticing more recently	ASAP SOON
HALOS	Around lights	TODAY
PAIN:	Mild to moderate Moderate to severe	SOON TODAY
RED EYE:	Sudden onset or persistent, with or without pain Been putting up with for awhile	TODAY SOON
SWOLLEN EYELID		SOON

Courtesy of VisionArts Eyecare Centre, Inc., Nanaimo, BC