

Pediatric Ophthalmology Consult and referral guidelines

*Helen DeVos Children's Hospital
Outpatient Center
35 Michigan Street NE*

About Pediatric Ophthalmology

We care for children and teens from birth to age 18 and adults with strabismus or diplopia.

Pediatric Ophthalmology Appointment Priority Guide

Immediate	Contact HDVCH Direct at 616.391.2345 and ask to speak to the on-call ophthalmologist.
Urgent	Likely to receive an appointment within 2 days. Contact the Welcome Center at 616.267.2605 to schedule same-day or next-day appointment. Or contact HDVCH Direct. Please see list below for conditions that are considered urgent.
Routine	Send referral via Epic Care Link, fax completed referral form to 616.267.1408, or send referral through Great Lakes Health Connect.

All referrals are placed through a triage process. The following qualify as urgent referrals:

- New diagnosis of concern for cataract
- Corneal opacity or corneal ulcer
- Infantile or congenital glaucoma
- Leukocoria/abnormal or no red reflex
- Acute or acquired nystagmus
- Ocular trauma
- Papilledema
- Acute or sudden onset ptosis
- Red eye not responding to treatment or of concern to the PCP
- Conjunctivitis in infant less than 30-days old
- Acute or acquired strabismus
- Sudden vision loss
- Physician request for emergent or urgent consultation/referral

All other referrals are triaged based on patient age and diagnosis.

Infants, children and young adults

American Academy of Pediatrics

Visual System Assessment in Infants, Children, and Young Adults by Pediatricians; Committee on Practice and Ambulatory Medicine; Section on Ophthalmology, American Association of Certified Orthoptists, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus and American Academy of Ophthalmology; Pediatrics 2016; 137; Published December 7, 2015

Schedule for Visual System Assessment					
Assessment	Newborn to 6 months	6-12 months	1-3 years	4-5 years	6 years and older
Ocular history	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
External inspection of lids and eyes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red reflex testing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pupil examination	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ocular motility assessment		✓	✓	✓	✓
Instrument based screening, when available (CPT 99174)		*	✓	✓	✓ Suggested if unable to test visual acuity monocularly with age appropriate optotypes
Visual acuity fixate and follow response	✓ **	✓	✓		
Visual acuity age-appropriate optotype assessment (CPT 99173)			✓	✓	✓

*The American Academy of Ophthalmology has recommended instrument-based screening at age 6 months. However, the rate of false-positive results is high for this age group, and the likelihood of ophthalmic intervention is low.

**Development of fixating on and following a target should occur by 6 months of age, children who do not meet this milestone should be referred.

Screening Examination of Premature Infants for Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)

American Academy of Pediatrics

Screening Examination of Premature Infants for Retinopathy of Prematurity; American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Ophthalmology, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, and American Association of Certified Orthoptists; Pediatrics 2013; 131, 189; Published December 31, 2012

Recommendation for a retinal eye exam with an ophthalmologist at intervals based on gestational age at birth and subsequent disease severity.

Timing of First Eye Examination Based on Gestational Age at Birth		
Gestational age at birth, in weeks	Age at initial examination, in weeks: postmenstrual	Age at initial examination, in weeks: chronologic
22*	31	9
23*	31	8
24	31	7
25	31	6
26	31	5
27	31	4
28	32	4
29	33	4
30	34	4
Older gestational age with high risk factors: consider timing based on severity of comorbidities		4

**This guideline should be considered tentative rather than evidence-based for infants with a gestational age of 22 or 23 weeks because of the small number of survivors*

Learning Disability, Dyslexia and Vision

American Academy of Pediatrics

Joint Technical Report – Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia, and Vision; Section on Ophthalmology and Council on Children with Disabilities, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, and American Association of Certified Orthoptists; Pediatrics 2011; 127; e818

Recommend vision screening and referral to ophthalmology.