

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

OCULAR URGENCIES & EMERGENCIES

Name: Ocular Urgencies & Emergencies
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Urgencies and emergencies represent potential threats to the ocular or systemic health of the patient if not dealt with promptly and appropriately.

Optometrists are expected to:

- Establish appropriate protocols and ensure that staff members are trained to recognize and respond to urgent and emergency situations
- Conduct a specific examination to evaluate the immediate problem
- Counsel at-risk patients about signs and symptoms that may require further care (e.g. retinal detachment signs and symptoms following posterior vitreous detachment)
- Counsel patients to whom drugs have been prescribed about potential adverse reactions and when the need for emergency services may be required
- Make themselves available or arrange for 24-hour care for patients to whom they have initiated treatment of an urgent condition