

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

ANTERIOR SEGMENT EXAMINATION

Name:	Anterior Segment Examination
Date Approved:	09/30/2016
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Number:	SP-GP-1
Type:	General Procedures (GP)
Reference:	

The anterior segment can be considered the front one third of the eye, encompassing the structures anterior to the vitreous humour.

The anterior segment examination consists of a thorough assessment of these structures to facilitate the diagnosis of disease and disorders of the eye and the vision system. Information gathered from an anterior segment examination is part of the required clinical data for a comprehensive eye examination.

Optometrists must be proficient in and equipped for examining the anterior segment. All patients should receive an anterior segment examination as part of initial and ongoing optometric care. Emphasis should be given to the evaluation of the anterior chamber angle prior to pupillary dilation and in particular with patients with diagnosed or suspected glaucoma.

An anterior segment examination is an essential component of all contact lens assessments. Gonioscopy or use of a reliable imaging technique may be employed when a detailed assessment of the anterior chamber angle is required. Other assessment tools that can be employed, but not limited to, include OCT, wave front analysis and corneal topography. Ophthalmic dyes and optical filters are helpful in diagnosing diseases and disorders of the ocular surface.