



# Ophthalmology

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**Telephone Numbers:** Appointments: 202-476-3015 Administration: 202-476-3017 Clinic: 202-476-3015  
Evenings and Weekends: 202-476-5000 Administration Fax: 202-476-6520 Clinic Fax: 202-476-6521

**Mohamad Jaafar, MD, Chief**

Children's Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology's practice is to accept all patients referred into our care, should a pediatrician/family physician determine that a patient might benefit from our services. Upon initial evaluation, our pediatric ophthalmologists determine if the child requires the highly specialized services of the team. If so, the child is treated for as long as his/her needs warrant. If not, the child is given initial treatment, and then referred to a more appropriate level of care in the community.



## EMERGENCY DISORDERS

- Sudden unexplained loss of vision
- White pupillary reflex
- Painful eye associated with decreased vision
- Orbital cellulitis
- Glaucoma suspect (enlarged eye, hazy cornea, tearing, and/or sensitivity to light)
- Ocular trauma

Direct patients to Children's Emergency Department and contact Children's Eye Clinic (202-476-6115) or the ophthalmologist on call (Physician to Physician Access Line 202-476-4880) for disposition.

## URGENT/ACUTE DISORDERS

- New onset constant strabismus (ocular misalignment by cover test or corneal light reflex)
- Red eye unresponsive to topical broad-spectrum antibiotics
- Red eye or photophobia in a patient with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA)
- Unexplained proptosis
- New pupillary abnormality
- New onset nystagmus

Patients should be seen within 10 to 14 days. Call 202-476-3015 and ask for an urgent appointment slot. Contact the clinic manager (202-476-6115 or [eyeclinic@childrensnational.org](mailto:eyeclinic@childrensnational.org)) if urgent slots are full.

## ROUTINE

- Abnormal visual behavior in pre-verbal children
- Failed screenings in older children
- Amblyopia (lazy eye)
- Nasolacrimal duct difficulties (blocked tear duct; fistula)
- Chalazion unresponsive to warm compresses
- Developmental delay/Metabolic disorder screening
- Screening in diseases known to affect the eye (e.g. diabetes, neurofibromatosis, sickle cell disease, arthritis)
- Eyeglasses wear due to asymmetric refractive error, or to correct strabismus in children, under 10 years old.

Patients who wear simple glasses to improve vision symmetrically (myopia, hyperopia) may be referred to an ophthalmologist or optometrist in their community.

Appointments are typically available within one to two months, depending on location. Call 202-476-3015 for an appointment.