

Covid-19 Pandemic Amber Phase

– Risk Stratification Tool

The College's Amber Phase guidance advises that urgent/emergency and essential patients should be prioritised, but routine eye care can be provided where capacity permits, and it is in the patient's best interests on a needs- and symptoms-led basis. Therefore, there is a need for optometrists to risk stratify patients reporting visual/ocular symptoms in order to determine the level and urgency of care required. While the decision to do so remains at the optometrist's discretion using their professional judgement, they may use the following scoring system to help with this process:

		SCORE
Patient is at risk of eye condition(s)?	Yes = 2 No = 0	
Patient has up-to-date sight test (within recommended minimum sight test interval)?	Yes = 0 No = 1	
Patient has adequate visual correction appliance (spectacles, contact lenses, low vision aids)?	Yes = 0 No, but able to function = 1 No, and unable to function = 4 Yes, but unable to function = 4	
Onset of visual/ocular symptoms? NB: Consider the nature of the presenting symptoms	Acute = 4 Gradual, but well-being affected = 3 Gradual, but well-being not affected = 1	
Patient registered carer or key worker?	Yes = 1 No = 0	
TOTAL SCORE		

Score 4+: Patients with greatest need/risk of harm

Patient should be prioritised and reviewed as soon as possible. This should be a remote telephone/video consultation in the first instance; and may require you to follow the practice's commissioned pathway for urgent/emergency cases.

Score 2 – 3: Patients with moderate need/risk of harm

Patient should be reviewed after prioritising patients who score 4+. This should be a remote telephone/video consultation in the first instance.

Score 1: Patients with low need/risk of harm

This may be considered routine care and the patient should not be seen unless there is capacity, after prioritising higher scoring patients. During lockdowns or periods of high infection rates, offer the patient the choice of deferring the appointment if they are at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 or other respiratory infections.

Score 0: Patients with minimal need/risk of harm

This should be considered routine care and the patient should not be seen unless there is capacity, after prioritising higher scoring patients. During lockdowns or periods of high infection rates, offer the choice to defer the appointment, particularly if they are at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 or other respiratory infections.