**Primary Care Management Guidelines**

**Refractive Error**

These guidelines are to assist GPs to monitor and manage their patients in a primary care setting until clinical thresholds indicate that tertiary care is required. The clinical thresholds are defined in the guidelines, and may require diagnostic support from a local optometrist or ophthalmologist. Providing a detailed diagnostic report will assist with the triage of your referral into the most appropriate clinic, within clinically appropriate timeframes.

### **Primary Care Management**

* For glasses check and patients with difficulty reading in the presbyopic age (40-50) please refer to a local optometrist first.

Optometrists are eye professionals qualified to undertake eye examinations with no cost to the patient. To find a local Optometrist please refer to the following link: <http://www.optometry.org.au/vic/find-an-optometrist/>

### **When to refer to the Eye and Ear**

* Once vision does not improve after refraction has been performed by local optometrist.

NB. Referrals for refraction or eye-glasses are not accepted at the Eye and Ear.

### **Information to include on the referral letter**

* Best corrected vision (with pinhole)
* Current refraction
* Date of last refraction

### **More information**

Return to our [Primary Care Management Guidelines](http://www.eyeandear.org.au/page/Health_Professionals/Referring_to_the_Eye_and_Ear/Pre-referral_guidelines)

Go to our [Referral Guidelines](http://www.eyeandear.org.au/page/Health_Professionals/Referring_to_the_Eye_and_Ear/Referrals)

[Factsheets](http://www.optometry.org.au/media/452259/nl_optometry_scope_of_practice_gp_2_page.pdf) for GPs on what services optometrists can provide, optometrists scope of practice and [how to find a local optometrist](http://www.optometry.org.au/vic/find-an-optometrist/).

Information on the [Australian College of Optometry](http://aco.org.au/) and services they provide.