



Origination 04/2026
 Last Approved 04/2026
 Effective 04/2026
 Last Revised 04/2026
 Next Review 04/2029

Contact Stephanie Spain:
 Trauma Prgm
 Mgr Adult
 Area Trauma Surgical
 Critical Care
 Applicability System Wide
 Policies

Trauma - Ophthalmology Consult for Traumatic Injuries

1. Process/Procedure Description

This document provides instructions on how to obtain an ophthalmology consult for traumatic injuries. Primary purpose of this process is to ensure ophthalmology consults are delivered in a fail safe manner and the necessary details for the severity of the condition are provided.

2. Who Should Read This Process/Procedure?

Emergency Medicine, Trauma, Emergency General Surgery, Surgical Critical Care, Pulmonary Critical Care, Hospitalists, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Pediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery

3. Definitions

- A. **Adult Ophthalmology Consult** - any patient registered in or out patient in need of an evaluation for an acute condition of the eye or surrounding relevant structures.
- B. **Pediatric Ophthalmology Consult** - any patient registered in or out patient at Children's at Erlanger campus location in need of an evaluation for an acute condition of the eye or surrounding relevant structures.
- C. **Full Thickness Eyelid Laceration** - all three layers of the upper or lower eyelid involving the eyelid margin or canalicular system are injured potentially requiring sub-specialty (oculoplastics) ophthalmology evaluation. These injuries **do not** fall within the domain of plastic surgery when the eyelid margin or canalicular system are involved.
- D. **Canalicular System** - Openings (puncta) and channels in the medial portions of the upper and lower eyelids that drain into the nasolacrimal sac and nasal passages.
- E. **Open Globe Injury** - when the eye wall, sclera or cornea, is breached exposing the inner contents of the eye constitutes an **ophthalmological emergency requiring **surgery typically**

within 24 ours.**

4. Process/Procedure

- A. Consulting team identifies the on-call ophthalmologist (OCO) in AMION.
- B. For emergent consults, e.g. open globe, the consulting team calls the OCO directly on their cell phone listed in AMION.
- C. For routine consults, the consulting team places a message in EPIC Chat with a brief history, description of the problem and accompanying picture of the involved eye(s) as well as a call back phone number. ****Consults should include a one-line presentation and the clinical question or problem, including visual acuity and pertinent history when able.****
- D. **The consulting team must place an order in epic for all ophthalmology consults.**
- E. If the OCO would like to speak to the consulting team for routine overnight consults, they should return the call before shift change, 6 am for trauma and 7 am for other service lines.
- F. The ophthalmologist then sees the patient at bedside in a timely fashion based on the severity of injury and within the 24 hours mandated by the BEH Hospital Bylaws.
- G. The Picture in EPIC Chat shall not be a surrogate for an in-person evaluation ****unless it is mutually agreed upon by both the physician requesting the consult and the ophthalmologist on call.****
- H. Full-thickness eyelid lacerations beyond the scope of the on-duty ophthalmologist should be referred to one of the oculoplastics surgeons in the ophthalmology call pool ****when they are available.****
- I. Adult full thickness eyelid lacerations may be re-approximated with superficial sutures until definitive treatment can be arranged.

5. References:

K Blair, SA Alhadi, CN Czyz. Globe Rupture. NIH StatPearls [Internet] January 2025; WWW.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK551637/

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
VP Approval	Jessica Holladay: VP & CNO Surg & Trauma Svcs	04/2026
Trauma Services Committee Approval	Stephanie Spain: Trauma Prgm Mgr Adult	04/2026
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Applicability

Erlanger Health - All Search, Erlanger Health - Baroness, Erlanger Health - Bledsoe, Erlanger Health - Children's, Erlanger Health - EMG, Erlanger Health - East, Erlanger Health - North, Erlanger Health - System, Erlanger Health - Western Carolina, Erlanger Health - Western Carolina EMG

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