

## NURSE DELEGATED EMERGENCY CARE BASIC EYE PROBLEMS MANAGEMENT COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT TOOL<sup>1</sup>

This competency assessment tool allows a facilitator to assess nurse confidence and competence in undertaking a basic nursing eye assessment and commencing basic nursing management of eye problems as guided by the Emergency Care Institute's *Nurse Delegated Emergency Care "Eye Problems" Nursing Management Guideline*.

This assessment tool may be applicable to other basic nursing eye assessment contexts; however, facilitators should note that the tool is designed within the guidelines and principles of the *Nurse Delegated Emergency Care (NDEC)* program.

Confidence <sup>2</sup>	Performance Criteria	Competent	NYC <sup>3</sup>	Comments	CENA <sup>4</sup>	ANMC <sup>5</sup>
<b>General Understanding of Basic Eye Problems Management</b>						
	<u>Describes the types of eye problems that can present to an Emergency Department</u>  <i>(Traumatic – blunt and penetrating, chemical, foreign body, lacerations to eye lid or surrounding tissue. Non traumatic – infection, allergies, degenerative processes)</i>					
	<u>Summarises eye problems that are considered suitable for inclusion through NDEC</u>  <i>(Low acuity / low risk – Australasian Triage Scale category 4 or 5 and no Red Flags as per the Nursing Management Guideline. Examples could include "red eye", "Welder's flash", non-embedded foreign body)</i>					
	<u>States further patient care resources for eye management</u>  <i>(Eye Emergency Manual, ECI, local guidelines or protocols)</i>					
	<u>Employs principles of infection control and Work Health and Safety throughout eye problem management</u>					
<b>NDEC Eye Assessment</b>						
	<u>Sets up correct equipment for eye exam</u>  <i>(Visual acuity / Snellen chart, Pinhole occluder or equivalent, ophthalmoscope, Fluorescein drops, ophthalmoscope)</i>					
	<u>Identifies potential aids that a patient may require during the exam</u>  <i>(Glasses, contact lens, interpreters, alternate visual charts – pictures instead of letters or figures)</i>					
	<u>Prepares patient correctly for visual acuity assessment</u>  <i>(Patient comfortable and correct distance from visual chart being used. Can identify the correct distance required as per the chart being used)</i>					
	<u>Demonstrates visual acuity assessment on both eyes and explains clinical significance of findings</u>  <i>(Descending order of letters on the visual chart. Uses other charts if appropriate. Any acute alteration in vision requires medical review – not an NDEC patient)</i>					
	<u>Describes or demonstrates procedure for continued testing if visual acuity is less than 6/6</u>  <i>(Pin hole disk on affected eye to improve vision, other methods of assessing vision using hand signals then light perception)</i>					
	<u>Demonstrates correct method for instilling Fluorescein eye drops (or using blotting paper) for eye exam</u>  <i>(Pull down lower eyelid to form a "pocket", tilt head slightly back and get patient to look up, instil drops into pocket formed [or place blotting paper on eye lid], instruct patient to close eyes and move eye side to side/ up and down to spread medication)</i>					

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Sydney / Sydney Eye Hospitals Clinical Nursing Services Department (2012) *Assessment of Visual Acuity and Assessing and Performing Instillation of Eye Drops / Ointment* SSEH CNSD

<sup>2</sup> **Completed by the participant.** Confidence is a declaration from the participant that they are confident in the particular performance criteria prior to formal assessment.

<sup>3</sup> NYC = Not Yet Competent. Competence is not adequately demonstrated.

<sup>4</sup> CENA = Criteria mapped to: College of Emergency Nursing Australasia (2007) *Practice Standards for the Emergency Nursing Specialist* (<http://cena.org.au/CENA/Documents/Standards.pdf>)

<sup>5</sup> ANMC = Criteria mapped to: Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (2006) *National Competency Standards for the Registered Nurse* (<http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au>)

Confidence <sup>6</sup>	Performance Criteria	Competent	NYC <sup>7</sup>	Comments	CENA <sup>8</sup>	ANMC <sup>9</sup>
	<p><u>Demonstrates correct use of cobalt blue light to assess for abnormalities after Fluorescein instillation.</u></p> <p><i>(Correctly uses ophthalmoscope with cobalt blue light to assess for corneal abrasion)</i></p>					
	<p><u>Distinguishes how any abnormalities will appear with cobalt blue light and explains clinical significance of findings</u></p> <p><i>(The appearance of a corneal abrasion post Fluorescein instillation during cobalt blue light assessment will appear as a green discolouration. This is a clinically significant abnormality, will require topical antibiotic eye drops in addition to usual NDEC follow-up)</i></p>					
<b>Management</b>						
	<p><u>Demonstrates or describes the management strategies as outlined in NDEC</u></p> <p><i>(Symptom relief, topical application of eye drops, appropriate referral)</i></p>					
	<p><u>Explains the NDEC nursing management of abnormalities as found during above patient exam</u></p> <p><i>(Consider direct notification to medical officer – withdraw from NDEC model. Otherwise topical antibiotic eye drops and referral)</i></p>					
	<p><u>Demonstrates instructing a patient or carer in correct eye drop application technique</u></p> <p><i>(Wash hands, tilt head up, pull lower lid down to form a pocket behind the lid, deliver recommended drops / dose without touching bottle tip to eye, shut eyelid and keep shut for 1 minute, recap bottle and wash hands. Provides appropriate factsheet to patient / carer)</i></p>					
<b>Documentation</b>						
	<p><u>Produces a medical record that documents assessment findings, and subsequent management (including medication administration)</u></p>				1.4, 2.1, 2.3, 7.1	2.2, 6.3, 6.4, 7.8, 9.2, 10.2

Competent (must meet all above criteria)

Not Yet Competent

Facilitator Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Facilitator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator Comments:

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Comments:

Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ LHD: \_\_\_\_\_ Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

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