



# Professional Eye Care Consultation

**Alcon**<sup>®</sup>

## Signs and symptoms that you should see an eye care professional

Many eye conditions and diseases may not present any noticeable signs or symptoms, thus increasing the importance of regular eye examinations by an eye care professional (ECP). When identified early, more than 80% of causes of visual impairment can be treated, prevented or cured.<sup>1</sup> Below are some signs and symptoms that may indicate an eye problem that requires medical attention.

### **Non-Emergent Symptoms Require an Exam by Eye Care Professional**

Schedule an appointment with your ECP if you experience any of the following symptoms:<sup>2</sup>

- Blurred vision or difficulty focusing on distant or close-up objects<sup>2</sup>
- Changes in the color of the iris<sup>2</sup>
- Dark spot in center of your vision<sup>2</sup>
- Double vision<sup>2</sup>
- Excessive tearing or watering of your eyes<sup>2</sup>
- Itchy, burning or dry eyes<sup>2</sup>
- Unusual waviness or distortion of straight lines<sup>2</sup>
- Red, crusty or swollen eyelids<sup>2</sup>
- Significant difficulty with sight adjusting in a dark room<sup>2</sup>
- Spots or specks floating in your vision<sup>2</sup>
- The need to squint due to light sensitivity or glare<sup>2</sup>
- Headaches<sup>2</sup>

If you wear contact lenses and experience redness, pain, discharge or blurry vision, remove the contact lenses immediately and do not re-insert them until you've been instructed to do so by your eye care professional.<sup>2</sup>

### **Emergency Symptoms Require Immediate Care by Eye Care Professional or Physician**

The following symptoms may indicate a significant medical condition that requires urgent attention:

- Black spots or flashes of light<sup>2</sup>
- Curtain-like disappearance of vision<sup>2</sup>
- Eye injury
- Eye pain
- Halos or rainbows around lights<sup>2</sup>
- Loss of peripheral (side) vision<sup>2</sup>
- Sudden hazy or blurred vision<sup>2</sup>
- Sudden vision loss in one eye<sup>2</sup>

1. Lighthouse International, Prevalence of Vision Impairment, <http://www.lighthouse.org/research/statistics-on-vision-impairment/prevalence-of-vision-impairment/> (Updated 2011) [Accessed December 21, 2012]
2. Signs of Eye Problems in Adults, Prevent Blindness America, <http://www.preventblindness.org/signs-eye-problems-adults> (Updated 2011) [Accessed December 21, 2012]