

# Conjunctivitis

## **What is conjunctivitis?**

Conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the conjunctiva, the thin, transparent layer that lines the inner eye lid and covers the white of the eye.

There are three types of conjunctivitis

- Infectious – commonly known as pink eye is caused by a contagious virus or bacteria.
- Allergic – allergies such as pollen, animals etc
- Chemical irritants such as chlorine in the swimming pool.

## **What are the symptoms of conjunctivitis?**

- Red watery eyes
- Inflamed inner eyelids
- Blurred vision
- Gritty, scratchy feeling in the eyes
- And sometimes a pus-like or watery discharge.

## **What are the risks?**

Conjunctivitis can sometimes develop into something that can harm vision so you should seek medical advice promptly for diagnosis and treatment.

## **What is the treatment for conjunctivitis?**

- Infectious conjunctivitis – caused by bacteria, can be treated with antibiotic eye drops. Other forms, caused by viruses, cannot be treated with antibiotics. They must be fought off by your body's immune system.
- Allergic or chemical – is to avoid the cause. If that does not work, prescription or over the counter eye drops may relieve discomfort.

To control the spread of infectious conjunctivitis, you should keep your hands away from your eyes, thoroughly wash your hands before applying eye medications and do not share towels, washcloths, cosmetics or eye drops with others.

**Who do I contact for further help and advice?  
Please contact the hospital where you had your  
treatment.**

## **Boothroyd Day Care**

**Dewsbury Hospital 01924 816155**

**Pinderfields Day/Short Stay Unit 01924 541854**

**Pontefract Day Unit 01977 747547**

**Waiting List office (operations) 01924 542987  
01924 543338**

**Eye Condition advice 01924 816027**

Other useful information can be found at:

**NHS Choices - [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)**

We are committed to providing high quality care. If you have a suggestion, comment, complaint or appreciation about the care you have received, or if you need this leaflet in another format please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on: 01924 542972 or email: [pals@midyorks.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@midyorks.nhs.uk)

To contact any of our hospitals call: 0844 811 8110  
To book or change an appointment call: 0844 822 0022

**1296c**

Updated Aug 2013  
Review Date 2016



**SMOKE FREE  
hospital**

**cleanyourhands®**  
campaign

