**TREATMENT GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH STAFF**

**OCULAR INJURIES**

Authorized health and wellness staff may treat ocular injuries as follows:

1. Foreign bodies on the cornea, conjunctiva or inner eyelids may often be removed by using a squeeze bottle with ocular irrigating solution. Imbedded foreign bodies should be evaluated immediately by the center physician or emergency department.
2. Corneal abrasions, often associated with severe pain and photophobia, should be evaluated urgently by the center physician or emergency department. Patch the affected eye to reduce discomfort.
3. Chemical splash injuries to the eyes should be treated immediately with copious irrigation. If normal saline is not available, tap water may be used. Keep the eye open as wide as possible while irrigating. Continue irrigating for at least 15 minutes. All chemical splash injuries should be evaluated by the center physician or emergency department.
4. Trauma to the orbit and the eye is often related to sports injuries, fist fights and vehicular accidents. Apply a cold compress or ice pack without putting pressure on the eye. In cases of eye pain, reduced vision, swelling or bruising, seek emergency medical care. Any of these symptoms could indicate internal eye damage.
5. Penetrating foreign bodies may lacerate the eye or the eyelid. Do not irrigate the eye and do not try to remove any object that is imbedded in the eye. Cover the eye with a rigid shield without applying pressure. Seek emergency medical care.

**WHEN TO REFER TO CENTER PHYSICIAN**

* All significant ocular injuries should be discussed with the center physician at the time of the injury