

Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre
 Ophthalmic Guideline

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF THE TONOPEN

PROFILE	
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1.0 Introduction

The Tonopen is an instrument that is used to measure and record intra ocular pressure. It is a simple and accurate tool and may be used by the ophthalmic nurse in the ophthalmic environment.

2.0 Aim

For the ophthalmic nurse to monitor and record intra ocular pressure safely and efficiently using the Tonopen. The guideline should be used in conjunction with Patient Group Direction number 012 'The administration of Minims Oxybuprocaine Hydrochloride (Benoxinate) 0.4% stat to facilitate measurement of intraocular pressure by an ophthalmic nurse'.

3.0 Objectives

- 3.1 All nurses using the Tonopen will have an ophthalmic qualification or at least 6 months ophthalmic experience and have completed Tonopen in-house training. See 6.0
- 3.2 All inpatients with suspected raised intra ocular pressure will have their intra ocular pressure measured with the Tonopen in the absence of a doctor/ or prior to medical examination.
- 3.3 All A+E patients will have their intra ocular pressure measured with the Tonopen prior to the instillation of mydriatic drops by an ophthalmic nurse to dilate the pupils to enable fundal examination.
- 3.4 All A+E patients will have their intra ocular pressure measured with the Tonopen at secondary assessment if their signs and symptoms are indicative of raised intra ocular pressure.

4.0 Outpatient Clinic

- 4.1 Patients attending an out patient clinic will have their IOP measured with the Tonopen prior to pupil dilation with mydriatic eyedrops (where indicated by medical staff in medical notes) in line with local protocols.
- 4.2 Intra ocular pressure readings will be documented in the patient's notes.
- 4.3 Intra ocular pressure readings "out of normal range" will be brought to the attention of medical staff.

5.0 Definitions used

IOP	Intra ocular pressure
A+E	Accident and Emergency

PGD	Patient Group Directive
R+L	Right and Left
BMEC	Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre

6.0 Specific details

6.1 The role of the manager is:

- to ensure that equipment is well maintained and accessible.
- That only nurses that fulfil the above criteria are offered Tonopen training.
- That training and supervision is provided for as long as necessary.

6.2 The role of the nurse is to undertake Tonopen training if he/she fulfils the above criteria.

- To not undertake the procedure unsupervised until she/he is assessed as competent and safe.
- To only undertake measurement of IOP with the Tonopen within the confines of this policy.
- To ensure that the Tonopen is properly calibrated prior to use and that any faults are reported to the Dept/Ward Manager promptly.
- To undertake annual “use of Tonopen” competency test.

7.0 Training

Training will be given by an ophthalmic nurse who has been passed as competent to use the Tonopen and who uses the Tonopen on an almost daily basis.

Training will consist of:

- Watching an instructional video on use of the Tonopen
- Demonstration of how to calibrate the Tonopen
- Demonstration of patient preparation prior to use of Tonopen
- Demonstration of how to use the Tonopen
- Supervision until competency is achieved and appropriate documentation completed.

8.0 References

Mentor, Tono-pen XL Instruction manual. Copyright 1993, Mentor O & O, Inc.

Nursing and Midwifery Council (2002) Code of Professional Practise. London N.M.C

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Rose K, Waterman H, Tullo A (1997) The Extended Role of the Nurse: reviewing the implications for practise, Clinical Effectiveness in Nursing 1, 31-37

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