

# Educational Moments®

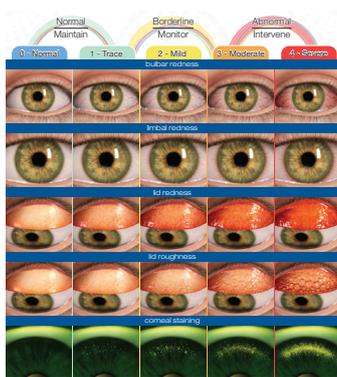
## How to work with grading scales

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Grading scales are an essential tool for accurate and concise recording and monitoring of clinical changes to ocular tissues.
- Standardised scales are used to assess the severity of a wide range of conditions including those associated with contact lens wear.
- Whilst there are several grading scales available, it is important to select a single grading scale, to ensure consistency in recording keeping and to correctly monitor the progress of a clinical condition.

#### Types of grading scales:

Several grading scales are available for use in clinical contact lens practice. For example:



#### Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Institute Clinical Grading Scale

An adapted version of the Efron grading scale, for easy chair-side reference. A guide to slit lamp illumination, staining, lid assessments and signs of oxygen deficiency is found on the reverse side.

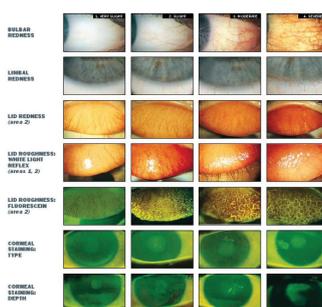
Access grading scale [here](#)



#### The Efron Grading Scale

This grading scale uses pictorial images and provides a standard clinical reference for describing the severity of 16 contact lens complications with a grading of 0 to 4.

#### Brien Holden Vision Institute GRADING SCALES



#### The Brien Holden Vision Institute (formerly CCLRU)

This grading scale uses photographic images for a range of conditions which may occur during contact lens wear.

- While there are differences in the number of reference images shown for these scales, all scales are intended to be used by using grades that range from 0, where no clinical action is required, through to grade 4, where clinical action is urgently required.
- Management will be based on how much the normal ocular appearance has changed, with a grade of 2 or less typically considered within normal limits. It has been recommended that, for maximum precision, recording of clinical signs using grading scales should be undertaken to the nearest 0.1 scale units and that a change in grading scale units of 1.0 is typically considered clinically meaningful, with Efron recommending a change of 0.7 units for the use of his scale

#### Clinical conditions:

The use of grading scales has been clinically validated for a variety of conditions such as:

- Bulbar Redness
- Limbal Redness
- Lid Redness
- Lid Roughness
- Corneal Staining
- Meibomian Gland Dysfunction

Although various systems are validated for clinical use, pictorial scales have been shown to be more reliable than photographic systems. Studies have also shown differences in precision and reliability between observers and between conditions.

Grading scales are a very useful clinical tool with a common language for improved accuracy, allowing direct comparisons, enhancing record keeping and are sensitive to monitoring changes. In addition, they can also be useful as an educational tool to help explain changes to the patient and so keep them fully informed.

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### FURTHER READING

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- Efron N. Grading morphs (Chapter 3). In: Efron N, *Contact Lens Complications, Third Edition*. Butterworth-Heinemann, Edinburgh 2012 (ISBN 978-1-4557-3774-1).
- Efron N. Grading scales for contact lens complications (Appendix A). In: Efron N, au. *Contact Lens Complications, Third Edition*. Butterworth-Heinemann, Edinburgh 2012 (ISBN 978-1-4557-3774-1).
- CCLRU grading scales. In *Contact Lenses, 5th edition*, edited by Phillips AJ and Speedwell L, Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford, 2006 (ISBN 978-0-7506-8818-5).
- (NB @Rachel this is amalgamated from original list that the pdf links to and added note on master word doc.)

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