# **Letter to parent: Transfer to treat**

Ophthalmologist: Place on your letterhead

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am an ophthalmologist (eye physician and surgeon). Your baby’s doctor asked me to examine the baby’s eyes.

**Your baby has a condition of the retina (the back of the eye) called ROP (retinopathy of prematurity).** After a premature birth, the blood vessels at the back of the eye may stop growing. The baby’s body responds by making a chemical called VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor). This chemical makes new blood vessels start growing.

But these are not normal blood vessels. These abnormal blood vessels can bleed. They can also pull (detach) the retina away from its normal position. This is called an RD (retinal detachment), and it can cause blindness.

**Your baby’s blood vessels are abnormal.** Your baby could go blind without treatment. The baby needs to be treated within 72 hours by \_\_\_\_\_\_ [date]. Your baby is being transferred to [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_] hospital for treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name of ophthalmologist \_\_\_\_\_ Date