**DEFINITIONS**

**VISUAL ACUITY**: Measure of the eye's ability to distinguish object details and shape. Assessed by the smallest identifiable object that can be seen at a specified distance (usually 20 ft. for distance and 16 inches for near).

**LEGAL BLINDNESS**: Central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye after correction or a restriction in the field of vision to an angle subtending an arc of 20 degrees or less.

**FUNCTIONAL VISION**: How well the residual vision is utilized.

**VISUAL CONTINUUM**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20/20</th>
<th>20/70</th>
<th>20/200</th>
<th>20/800</th>
<th>CF</th>
<th>HM</th>
<th>OP</th>
<th>LP</th>
<th>NIL/NLP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>normal visually</td>
<td>visually</td>
<td>counts</td>
<td>hand</td>
<td>object</td>
<td>light</td>
<td>totally</td>
<td>fingers</td>
<td>movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vision impaired</td>
<td>handicapped</td>
<td>legally</td>
<td>blind</td>
<td>→</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ophthalmologist (M.D.)**: a physician (with 4 years of medical school, 4 years of residency training) who specializes in refractive, medical, and surgical treatment of eye diseases and disorders.

**Optometrist (O.D.)**: a doctor of optometry (with 4 years of post-graduate optometry school) who is trained to examine eyes, detect and treat eye diseases and injuries, and prescribe eye glasses, contact lenses and medicines for treatment.

**Optician (A.B.O)**: a professional (with at least a high school diploma and up to 2 years of apprenticeship or formal training) who makes eyeglass lenses and adjusts frames from prescriptions provided by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

**Ocularist (B.C.O.; B.A.D.O.)**: a technician trained to shape, fit, and paint prosthetic (artificial) eyes. Training requires a 5 year apprenticeship with a Board Certified Ocularist or a Board Approved Diplomat Ocularist.

Audrey A. Dannenberg, M.A., M.Ed., COMS, CVRT
Virginia Department for the Blind & Vision Impaired
1-800-622-2155

revised 9/10
Tips for Working with Individuals with Visual Impairments

- Always identify yourself when saying hello or talking to an individual with a visual impairment. It is cruel to play the name guessing game: “Do you know who this is?”
- When walking with someone with a visual impairment, let them hold on to your arm above your elbow if they desire sighted guide assistance.
- Verbalize when giving directions. Never point.
- If you are holding a door open for a person with a visual impairment, tell them! Don’t just stand there!
- Want to know what a person with a visual impairment sees? Ask them. Waving fingers in front of someone’s face and saying “How many fingers am I holding up?” is inappropriate.
- If an individual appears lost, ask if she needs assistance. Do not assume that an individual with a visual impairment needs help.
- If an individual is using a dog guide, do not pet the dog; it is working when its harness is on.
- If an individual with a visual impairment has closed his eyes, do not assume he is sleeping. The light may be bothersome.
- A visual impairment does not automatically mean a hearing impairment. There is no need to raise your voice when talking to a person with a visual impairment.
- Communicate directly with the person with a visual impairment and don’t make assumptions or generalize from past experience. Ask them what adaptations are needed. All individuals have different needs even if they have the same eye disease.
- At mealtime it is helpful to use the numbers on a clock face to describe the location of food on the plate and table: “Your salad is at 10 o’clock.”
- If a person is using a white or a red & white cane, do not assume she is totally blind. She may just have a field loss or severely reduced vision.
- If you are re-organizing a space, let the person with a visual impairment know that, for example, the chair or the trashcan or their glass of water has been moved.

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1-800-622-2155
FREE CATALOGS
American Printing House for the Blind
1-800-223-1839  www.aph.org

American Foundation for the Blind (www.afb.org).  
1-800-232-5463. Catalog of Publications from AFB Press  
(www.afb.org/afb/catalog)  1-800-232-3044

Hear-More (products for the deaf and hard of hearing)  
1-800-881-4327  www.hearmore.com

Independent Living Aids  
1-800-537-2118  www.independentliving.com

LS & S  1-800-468-4789  www.LSSproducts.com

Maxi Aids  1-800-522-6294  www.MaxiAids.com

RADIO READING SERVICES
Valley Voice  
1-540-568-3811; 1-800-677-9672  www.jmu.edu/wmra/voice

Voice of the Blue Ridge (provides large print calendars)  
1-540-985-8900; 1-866-985-8900  www.vobr.org
DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO SERVICES (Movies)  1-888-818-1181
TOLL FREE DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE       1-800-373-3411

DIAL-IN NEWS SERVICES
NFB Newsline  1-866-504-7300   www.nfb.org/newsline1
Tell Me news/weather/sports info line  1-888-835-5630
Washington Ear  1-301-681-6636   www.washearn.org

TECHNOLOGY FUNDING RESOURCES
Customer Service Fund   1-800-552-5019/1-804-662-7072
NewWell Fund         1-866-835-5976

BOOKS/MAGAZINES ON TAPE (free)
National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (talking book library):
Richmond:  1-800-552-7015;    Staunton: 1-540-885-6215

FREE DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES
Hadley School for the Blind
1-800-323-4238       www.hadley-school.org

VisionAWARE (www.visionaware.org) is a “self-help for vision loss” website. It provides practical information for individuals with vision loss and also their family members or friends.
PATIENT INFORMATION:

Name: __________________________ Telephone: (____) - ________
Address: __________________________ Date of Birth: ________________
City/State/Zip Code: __________________________ Social Sec. No.: ____ - ____ - ____
Sex: ______ Race: ______

Parent/Guardian (if appropriate): ____________________________________________

EYE EXAMINATION INFORMATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OD</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OU</th>
<th>Distant Acuity Without Correction</th>
<th>Distant Acuity With Correction</th>
<th>Near Acuity Without Correction</th>
<th>Near Acuity With Correction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OD</td>
<td>OS</td>
<td>Field Diameter</td>
<td>Complete reverse side</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary Impairment | Age at Onset | Etiology | Secondary Impairment | Age at Onset | Etiology |
------------------|-------------|---------|---------------------|-------------|---------|

PROGNOSIS (check one):  □ Stable  □ Deteriorating  □ Can Improve  □ Uncertain

DESCRIPTION:
GLASSES (check one):  □ Constantly  □ Near  □ Distance  □ Visual Tasks  □ New Prescription  □ No Change

SPHERE  CYLINDER  AXIS  PRISM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OD</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>ADD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

RECOMMENDATIONS:
Indicate needed treatment(s) or surgical procedures and their C.P.T. code(s):

Check One:  □ Outpatient clinic/office  □ Outpatient Hospital  □ Inpatient Hospital

Address:
Low Vision Exam:  □ Yes  □ No  Re-Exam:  □ Yes  □ No  When

EXAMINER:

Examiner’s Signature  Date of Exam  Date Signed  DBVI AUTHORITY USE ONLY:  Legally Blind- □ Yes  □ No

Examiner’s Name (Please Print)  OPH  MD  OD

Address:  DBVI AUTHORITY:

City / State / Zip Code  Date
INSTRUCTIONS: Determine the peripheral visual field of each eye on a standard perimeter, using a 3 mm white test object, or a Goldman III-4e target. Record the Field at its widest diameter on this chart.

THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR THE BLIND AND VISION IMPAIRED provides services to legally blind persons of all ages throughout Virginia, as well as to some persons not legally blind but whose visual problems are progressive or of such magnitude that the specialized services of the Department are needed to assist them to achieve their maximum potentials. All such persons should be referred to the Agency for evaluation for services.

The Code of Virginia Section 63.1-71 directs the Virginia Department for Blind and Vision Impaired to: “prepare and maintain a complete REGISTER OF THE BLIND in the State, which shall describe the condition, case of blindness, capacity for educational and industrial training of each, and such other facts as the Department deems of value. Each physician, optometrist, or other person who, upon examination of the eyes of any person, determines that such person is a blind person as defined in Section 63.1-142, shall immediately report the name and address of such person to the Department.”

The Code of Virginia Section 63.1-142 states, “blind person means a person having not better than 20/200 central visual acuity in the better eye measured at twenty feet with correcting lenses; or having visual acuity greater than 20/200 but with the widest diameter of the visual field in the better eye subtending an angle of no greater than 20 degrees measured at a distance of 33 centimeters using a 3 millimeter white test object, or a Goldman III-4e target, or other equivalent equipment. Such blindness shall be certified by a duly licensed physician or optometrist.”
The Commonwealth of Virginia, through its Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI), is dedicated to empowering Virginia residents who are blind, vision impaired, and deafblind to achieve their maximum level of independence, education, and employment. Although the Code of Virginia Section 63.1-71 indicates that medical personnel shall report patients at the level of legal blindness (Code 63.1-142), visual eligibility criteria for DBVI services does not have to be that severe. Vision loss of 20/70 or worse in the better eye with correction meets eligibility for independent living skills and 20/100 for vocational purposes.

Referring your patients to DBVI is as follows:

1. Complete the DBVI Eye Exam Report form or send your recent office notes
2. Fax to: Bristol: 276-642-7317
   Fairfax: 703-359-1111
   Norfolk: 757-455-0142
   Richmond: 804-371-3174
   Roanoke: 540-561-7431
   Staunton: 540-332-7733
OR
   Mail to: DBVI, Intake, regional office address on brochure

It is important to note if correction is no longer of benefit to the patient. Results of field testing should be provided as well, if available.

We are glad to keep your office supplied with Agency brochures. When more Eye Exam Report forms are needed, feel free to make copies or call the regional office nearest you to request more. If you would like more information on specific services/programs of DBVI, our staff are available to provide an in-service. Thanks for supporting DBVI in assisting all Virginians with vision loss in maintaining independence.

(Codes of Virginia 63.1-71 and 63.1-142 are printed in full on the back portion of the DBVI Eye Report form).

June, 2010