

Low Vision Aid Assessment Prompt Sheet



Let the patient know what the assessment is for and what is going to be involved.

Background about the person's sight impairment...

- Where are you up to with your sight?
- Do you know what's happening with your sight?
- Are you currently under the hospital?
- Did the doctor mention about being registered?
- Are you currently receiving any treatment for your vision?
- Do you know the name of your sight problem?

ASK ABOUT CHARLES BONNET SYNDROME – do you ever notice anything unusual about your vision? Do you ever see images such as faces or patterns that aren't there?...

What is the person needing low vision aids for...

- What do you like reading?/What are you finding difficult to read?
- How do you fill your day?/What do you like to do in the day? Hobbies?
- (If the person works) How does your sight affect your work tasks? Are you receiving further support from your employer?
- What do use at the moment?/How are you managing to read bills/packets at the moment?
- To you get and about on your own? How are you managing outside?

Be prepared for this part of the assessment to take quite a significant amount of time (10mins) or more – it is very important to obtain this knowledge before looking at any charts or low vision aids.

Measuring Vision

- Measure distance vision and make a note on the person's record
- Measure near vision (Various charts used)
- Make sure you give the patient the reading chart – part of the assessment watching where they hold the chart, how close they hold the chart
- Have the patient start from the top of the chart (ring scotoma, hemianopia etc.)
- WATCH and LISTEN
- Don't have task light over chart at the start wait for the patient to start to struggle with text then slowly bring lamp in (DISCUSS LIGHTING)

Choosing the correct aid for the patient

- Use the reading chart (N measurement) as a rough guide only and usually start with one magnification less than the chart predicts (where possible)
- Illumination – majority of patients would find illuminated much more beneficial
- Task dependent - different tasks require different types/strengths
- USE REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES – TV Times, packet, crossword, newspaper
- Bring in clipboard and double ended clamp etc. depending on the task
- Give the patient the choice of styles – give advice
- How is the patient reacting to using a magnifier?

Demonstrate HOW to use the aids prescribed

- Show the person how to find the correct focal distance etc.
- Basics – such as switching the light on and off (check dexterity) and how to change batteries

Additional information about services and alternative equipment (use your local societies for...)

- Large Print/ Giant Print Books Information
- Mobility advice
- Lighting and Lamps Advice
- Talking Books and Newspapers
- Large Print puzzle books
- Meet people in the same boat – courses, groups and social activities
- I-pads, Kindles, e-readers
- Accessible apps and software
- Assistive technology, portable video magnifiers/ Mono Mouse/ CCTV's

Galloway's Society for the Blind:

01772 744 148

enquiries@galloways.org.uk

N-Vision:

01253 362 692

info@nvision-nw.co.uk