

Table 12 – Visual Function

| Introduction to Table 12 | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 12 is to be to assess the functional impact of a diagnosed condition when performing activities involving visual function. • The diagnosis of the condition causing the impairment must be made by an appropriately qualified medical practitioner with corroborating evidence from an ophthalmologist, optometrist, neurosurgeon or neurologist. • There must be corroborating evidence of the person’s impairment. • Self-report of symptoms must be supported by corroborating medical evidence. • Examples of corroborating evidence for the purposes of this Table include, but are not limited to, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a report from the person’s treating doctor; ○ a report from a medical specialist (such as ophthalmologist or ophthalmic surgeon) confirming diagnosis of conditions associated with vision impairment (such as diabetic retinopathy, brain tumours, glaucoma, retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, cataracts or congenital visual impairment); ○ results of vision assessments (such as assessments done by an optometrist). • Table 12 should be applied with the person using any visual aids the person usually uses, such as spectacles or contact lenses. • Where severe or extreme loss of visual function is evident or suspected, it is to be recommended that assessment by a qualified ophthalmologist occur to determine if the person meets the criteria for permanent blindness. • Assistance means assistance from another person, rather than any aids, equipment or assistive technology the person may use, unless specified otherwise. • When determining whether a descriptor applies that involves a person performing an activity, the descriptor applies if that person can do the activity when they would be expected to do so and not only once or rarely. • When assessing episodic or fluctuating impairments and conditions, a rating must be assigned which reflects the overall functional impact of those impairments, taking into account the severity, duration and frequency of the episodes or fluctuations as appropriate. • The examples used in descriptors are not an exhaustive list and are to be used only as a guide. | |

| Points | Descriptors |
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| 0 | <p><i>There is no or minimal functional impact on activities involving visual function.</i></p> <p>(1) The person has no or minimal difficulties seeing things at a distance or</p> |

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| | <p>close up and all of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person has no or minimal difficulties seeing the print in a newspaper or magazine; (b) the person has no or minimal difficulties seeing road signs, street signs or bus numbers; (c) the person has a full field of vision, that is, they have no or minimal difficulties with peripheral vision (being aware of objects or movement to the sides, above or below, when looking straight ahead) and no patches or areas of lost vision; (d) the person can usually perform all day-to-day functions involving the eyes with no or minimal discomfort, such as no or minimal watering of the eyes, difficulty opening the eyes, or difficulty moving the eyes, and is able to tolerate normal light levels. |
| 5 | <p><i>There is a mild functional impact on activities involving visual function.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The person can perform most day-to-day activities involving vision and has mild difficulties seeing things at a distance or close up and at least one of the following applies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person has mild difficulty seeing the fine print in newspapers or magazines (such as having to hold the print further away or use brighter light); (b) the person has mild difficulty seeing road signs, street signs or bus numbers or has mild difficulty reading road signs at night but can still travel around the community and use public transport without assistance; (c) when looking straight ahead, the person has mild difficulty seeing objects to the side or in the centre of their field of vision; (d) the person experiences mild discomfort when performing day-to-day activities involving the eyes, such as mild occasional watering of the eyes, mild difficulty opening the eyes, or mild difficulty moving or coordinating the eyes, or mild difficulty tolerating bright lights and sunlight, or mild discomfort when using a computer screen; (e) the person has functional vision in only one eye, or only has one eye, but has good vision in the remaining eye. |
| 10 | <p><i>There is a moderate functional impact on activities involving visual function.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) has moderate difficulties seeing things at a distance or close up or the person has very limited vision to the sides when looking straight ahead or the person has other significant loss in their field of vision, such as patches where they can see nothing or very |

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| | <p>little; and</p> <p>(b) has moderate difficulty performing some day-to-day activities involving vision, such as seeing the print letters, signs or route numbers on approaching buses or at train stations; and</p> <p>(c) has at least one of the following:</p> <p>(i) moderate difficulty seeing routine workplace, educational or training information, such as signs, safety information, or manuals, and may need to use alternative formats, such as large print, assistive devices or technology for vision in work, training or educational settings;</p> <p>(ii) moderate discomfort when performing day-to-day activities involving the eyes, such as frequent watering of the eyes, frequent difficulty opening the eyes, or moderate difficulty moving or coordinating the eyes, or moderate difficulty tolerating normal levels of light indoors or outdoors, or moderate discomfort when using a computer screen;</p> <p>(iii) only one eye or functional vision in only one eye and has mild problems with the vision in their only functioning eye; and</p> <p>(2) The person:</p> <p>(a) is able to function independently in familiar environments without regular assistance; and</p> <p>(b) is able to travel independently using public transport when using any assistive devices that they have and usually use.</p> |
| 20 | <p><i>There is a severe functional impact on activities involving visual function.</i></p> <p>(1) The person:</p> <p>(a) has severe difficulties seeing things at a distance or close up; and</p> <p>(b) has severe difficulty performing many day-to-day activities involving vision, such as severe difficulty distinguishing between different types of food in tins or packets, seeing the level of fluid in a cup or reading aisle signs in the supermarket even when standing close to these; and</p> <p>(c) either:</p> <p>(i) has severe difficulty seeing routine workplace, educational or training information, such as signs, safety information, or manuals, even when using any assistive devices or technology that they have; or</p> <p>(ii) needs assistance to use public or other means of transport to travel to work, educational or community facilities; and</p> |

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| | (d) has severe difficulty moving around independently in unfamiliar environments without assistance. |
| 30 | <p><i>There is an extreme functional impact on activities involving visual function.</i></p> <p>(1) The person is not considered permanently blind and, due to extreme functional impact on vision, the person:</p> <p>(a) needs assistance to move around even in familiar environments; and</p> <p>(b) needs assistance to perform most day-to-day activities.</p> |