

Functional Vision Screening Tool

Patient Label _____

DOB: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

1. Do you have any difficulty with your vision?

c Yes No

If yes, have you received a diagnosis from an eye doctor? **c Yes No**

Diagnosis: _____ Eye Doctor's Name: _____

2. Does vision loss make it challenging to do things on a day-to-day basis? (ie: reading the newspaper, preparing meals, looking after a home, personal care, navigating stairs/curbs, travelling safely, care of others, getting job ready etc.) **Yes No**

Comments (specific concerns): _____

Do you wish to be referred to a specialist from Vision Loss Rehabilitation who will call you to discuss your vision loss and services that may help address some of these challenges?

c Yes No

If patient answers yes to the above, and provides consent, please complete the information below.

Date consent given: ____/____/____ Signature: _____

If person giving consent is not patient, note name here: _____

Alternate contact name: _____ Telephone: _____

Patient's preferred language: ____ English ____ French ____ Other

To be completed by Referring Agency/Worker

Organization/Office: _____ **Fax:** _____

Name: _____ **Referral Date:** _____

Please fax completed form to Vision Loss Rehabilitation NB: 506.458.9219
Vision Loss Rehabilitation Services

Completing the screening tool: If the patient has vision loss, whether he/she wears glasses or not, the answer to the first question is yes. If the vision loss is corrected by lenses, and the answer to the next two questions is no, then a referral would not be necessary.

If the person wears glasses but answers yes to one or both next two questions (still has challenges associated with vision i.e. untreated cataracts or macular degeneration, both very common with this target group), then offer a referral to Vision Loss Rehabilitation for further assessment and service.

It is very common for our senior clients to wear glasses and still need a magnifier and other tools. They often feel the glasses help in some way although in many cases other intervention is needed to be able to read and do other tasks.

Vision Loss Rehabilitation Specialists work with individuals who are blind or partially sighted in their own homes and communities – providing one-on-one vision rehabilitation, group programs and connection to resources and information. Every person referred to Vision Loss Rehabilitation receives a thorough assessment and is then assigned to one or more of the following services as needed:

Low Vision Services - maximizing functional vision for reading and completing everyday tasks

Low Vision Specialists provide explanation and information about eye conditions and vision health. Individuals receive instruction in the use of low vision aids (magnifiers and CCTVs), lighting, sunglasses and colour-contrast.

Independent Living Skills and Assistive Technology – living safely and independently while staying connected to others

Independent Living Specialists provide instruction on preparing meals, identifying money, using the telephone/Smartphone, organizing the household, personal care, and communication skills (reading braille and using computers/tablets). Assistive Technology Specialists provide demonstration and training on using assistive technology (such as screen magnification, screen reader programs and cell phones/tablets with built-in accessibility features) to access information and stay connected with others.

Orientation & Mobility Instruction - safe travel, active living and community participation

Orientation & Mobility Specialists teach people how to travel safely, independently and confidently in their home and community. Instruction includes the sighted-guide technique (a safe way to walk with a sighted person), way-finding skills, long cane techniques and street crossings. Orientation & Mobility Specialists also teach people walking/bus routes and provide information about guide dogs.

Emotional Support - improving mental health and helping families adjust to vision loss

Emotional Support is critical to people coming to terms with their vision loss, understanding and dealing with their emotions and accepting the support and training that will allow them to live independently and actively participate in their community. Vision Loss Rehabilitation can organize one-on-one counselling, service coordination, and structured peer support groups to help individuals adjust to the emotional and social impact of vision loss.

Transition and employment assistance - Provides support to young people preparing for work, further study or developing independence. Assists working age individuals who need sight loss specific training and accommodations to find or maintain employment.