



Effective Communications in Hospitals

Promoting Meaningful Communications in Health Care

DEFINITIONS

Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI):

Functions at the Definition of Blindness (FDB) is a category indicating blindness due to brain injury or dysfunction. A student whose visual performance is reduced by a brain injury or dysfunction may be considered blind for educational purposes when visual function meets the definition of blindness as determined by an eye care specialist or neurologist. Students in this category manifest unique visual characteristics often found in conditions referred to as neurological, cortical, or cerebral visual impairment.

Legal Blindness:

Visual acuity of 20/200 or worse in the better eye, with corrective lenses, or a visual field restricted to 20 degrees or less diameter, in the better eye with corrective lenses (tunnel vision). 20/200 means that a person must be at 20 feet from an eye chart to see what a person with normal vision can see at 200 feet.

Low Vision:

Low vision is a term that denotes a level of vision that is 20/70 or worse after correction. Low vision is not the same as blindness. A person with low vision has the potential for use of available vision with or without optical or non-optical compensatory visual strategies, devices, and environmental modification to plan and perform daily tasks. A person with low vision may not recognize images at a distance or be able to differentiate colors of similar tones.