

Do you have low vision?

Low vision is permanently reduced vision due to an eye disease or injury, which cannot be corrected by glasses, contact lenses, medicine, or surgery. It is often a loss of sharpness or acuity, but may present as loss of field of vision, light sensitivity, distorted vision, or loss of contrast. People with low vision have some usable vision, but have difficulty performing everyday tasks such as reading, watching television, and routine tasks including cooking and grooming because of their vision loss.

What causes low vision?

Low vision can occur at any age. Common causes of low vision include macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, stroke, corneal disease, and injury.

What is low vision rehabilitation?

Low vision rehabilitation **does not cure the vision problem**, but rather utilizes the remaining vision to its fullest potential. It involves a low vision examination, prescription of optical and non-optical low vision devices. It may also include patient and family education, counseling, occupational therapy consultation daily living activities, addressing safety and travel concerns related to vision loss, and providing resources for patients and family members living with vision loss.

What is a low vision exam?

A low vision exam begins with questions regarding the patient's vision loss, and how it has affected their daily life. Special emphasis is placed on functional problems such as reading, watching television, grooming, cooking, glare problems, and travel vision. After preliminary testing including assessing visual acuity, field of vision, and contrast sensitivity, a careful extensive refraction is performed to determine the best glasses prescription and the prescription needed for low vision devices. Prescription low vision devices including magnifiers, telescopes, and electronic magnification will be evaluated and can help with specific visual tasks. Some non-optical independent living aids including large button phones and large print checks will also be evaluated. Referrals for other services including occupational therapy will be made as needed. The low vision exam usually takes about **one hour**.

What should I bring with me to my low vision exam?

Please bring all pairs of glasses that you currently use (including sunglasses). Also, if you are currently using any low vision devices like magnifiers or telescopes, please bring them with you as well. If you have specific goals like being able to read the newspaper or a medicine bottle, please bring those materials with you if possible. It is also recommended to have a family member or friend accompany you to your visit.

What is the cost of a low vision exam?

Medicare and some private medical plans cover some of the cost of a low vision examination. The refraction fee to determine your prescription for glasses and low vision devices is **\$50**. It is due on the day of your appointment and is **NOT** covered by medical insurance. **Medicare and most private insurances do not cover the cost of low vision devices.** The price of any recommended devices will be discussed with you during your low vision exam.