VISION IMPAIRMENT TOOL

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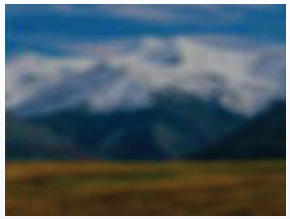
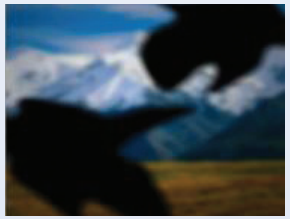
Vision Impairments	WINK	Patient Information/Considerations
How a person with a Cataract sees. 	Associated with aging. Clouding of the lens. Vision gradually gets worse. Seeing may become difficult, causing duller or blurrier vision.	Ask patients what he or she are able to see. Keep "white board" clean, clear and legible. Tell patients what is on the board. Use a signature guide and felt-tip pen when signing documents. Inform patients about menu choices.
How a person with Glaucoma sees.	Caused by damage to the optic nerve. Leading cause of blindness and visual impairment. Complete loss of peripheral vision. Mobility disturbances: risk of tripping or falling. Problems with glare, lighting, contrast and alteration in color.	Can see only what is directly in front of them. Control glare in the room by adjusting the shades. Inform patients when you are about to turn the lights on or off. Keep pathways clear of obstacles. Use color contrast on "white board." Use a signature guide and felt-tip pen when signing documents. Inform patients about menu choices.
How a person with Diabetic Retinopathy sees. 	Common diabetic eye disease. Associated with duration of diabetes and its management. Leading cause of blindness. Affects both eyes.	Ask patients what he or she are able to see. Few patients are totally blind. Orient patients to their room starting from a central point, such as their bed. Keep things in the same place or let patients know you are moving things. Explain any instructions that may be posted in the room. If able to see, use a signature guide and felt-tip pen when signing documents. Inform patients about menu choices.
How a person with Age-related Macular Degeneration sees.	Disease associated with aging. Gradually destroys sharp central vision, which is needed for activities such as reading and signing. Affects the macula — the part of the eye that allows you to see fine detail.	Patients are unable to see directly in front of them, so explain written documents. Use a signature guide and felt-tip pen when signing documents. Inform patients about menu choices.

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