

<b>Title</b>	<b>Describe the visual system and vision impairment</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>5</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	<p>This unit standard is for people providing services in a health or wellbeing setting.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to describe: the visual system; refraction and its effects on vision; the effects of vision impairment on a person; and agencies or support services and roles of professionals that are specific to people with vision impairment.</p>
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<b>Classification</b>	Health, Disability, and Aged Support > Sensory Support
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<b>Available grade</b>	Achieved
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## Guidance Information

### Definitions

*Health or wellbeing setting* includes but is not limited to – the aged care, acute care, community support, disability, mental health, and social services sectors.

*Person* – a person accessing services. Other terms used for the person may include client, consumer, customer, patient, individual, resident, service user, tūroro or tangata whai ora.

*Vision impairment* – a wide range of visual difficulties that can be placed on a continuum that ranges from mild interferences in the visual system to total blindness.

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## Outcomes and performance criteria

### Outcome 1

Describe the visual system.

#### Performance criteria

- 1.1 The visual system is described in terms of the basic structure and functions.
- Range structure includes but is not limited to – cornea, aqueous, iris, pupil, lens, vitreous, retina, macula, optic nerve, visual cortex.
- 1.2 The process of seeing an object is described in simple terms from object to visual cortex.

1.3 Changes to the visual system are described in terms of an individual's life stage.

Range life stage includes but is not limited to – infancy, childhood, adolescence, adult, older adult.

## Outcome 2

Describe refraction and its effects on vision.

Range effects include but are not limited to – myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism.

### Performance criteria

2.1 Refraction is described in terms of the change in light path at the junction of two optical media.

2.2 Errors in refraction are described in terms of their effect on vision.

Range evidence is required for three errors.

2.3 Prescription lenses to correct errors in refraction are described in terms of their effect on a person's vision.

## Outcome 3

Describe the effects of vision impairment on a person.

### Performance criteria

3.1 Common vision impairments are described in terms of their effect on everyday use of vision.

Range vision impairment must include but is not limited to – hyperopia, myopia, astigmatism, colour sensitivity, amblyopia.

3.2 The difference between blindness and vision impairment is described in terms of the impact on a person.

3.3 Effects of vision impairment are described in terms of their potential impact on a person's lifestyle.

Range effects include but are not limited to – psychological, social, educational, recreational, vocational.

3.4 Common misconceptions about vision impairment are described in terms of their impact on a person.

Range evidence is required of three common misconceptions.

**Outcome 4**

Describe agencies or support services and roles of professionals that are specific to people with vision impairment.

**Performance criteria**

4.1 Agencies or support services are described in terms of the services offered and the types of people with vision impairments they are able to assist.

Range evidence is required of three agencies or support services.

4.2 The roles of professionals who are part of vision referral pathways are described in terms of their areas of specialisation.

Range roles must include but are not limited to – ophthalmologist, optician, optometrist, orthoptist.

<b>Planned review date</b>	31 December 2021
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**Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions**

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	20 March 2009	31 December 2017
Review	2	16 April 2015	N/A
Rollover and Revision	3	24 October 2019	N/A

<b>Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference</b>	0024
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact Careerforce [info@careerforce.org.nz](mailto:info@careerforce.org.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.