

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

KEYSTONE COMMUNITY RESOURCES, INC.

KEYSTONE INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.



Policy Title:
Eye Health

Chapter:

Effective Date:
7/1/1992

Revision Date:
11/25/2008

Policy Number:

Executive Director

SCOPE:

- Chapter 6400 – Community Homes For Individuals With Mental Retardation

INTRODUCTION:

1. Eye defects are among the most common of all physical disorders. Certain defects are permanent, but vision can be corrected with eyeglasses or contact lenses. The primary defects of the eye include nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, strabismus and color blindness and these are described below. Your instructor will advise you about the special eye health needs of the residents you work with.
 - Nearsightedness, or myopia, is characterized by blurred distant vision with contrasting sharp close-range vision. In consequence, light rays from distant objects meet before they reach the retina. Eyeglasses used to correct nearsightedness have concave lenses which are thinner in the middle so that the light rays are brought together, making distant objects sharper.
 - Farsightedness, or hyperopia, occurs because the eyeball is too short from front to back. The farsighted eye receives sharp images of distant objects. Convex lenses, those that are thicker in the middle, are required to correct this effect.
 - Astigmatism is caused by an abnormally shaped cornea. As a result, light rays from an object do not come together before reaching the retina, producing blurred vision both near and far. Astigmatism may be combined with nearsightedness or farsightedness. Correcting it requires glasses or contacts with cylindrical lenses.
 - Strabismus is a defect in which the eyes are not used together. One of the eyes is turned too far in one direction all or part of the time. This condition occurs often in young children, but most cases can be corrected with glasses, eye drops or surgery if detected early. If left untreated, however, vision in the deviated eye may be permanently reduced causing a condition commonly known as “lazy eye”.
 - Color Blindness – Very few people are totally color blind. In most cases, certain colors are confused with others. Color blindness is caused by abnormalities in the pigment of the retina’s cones and is usually present at birth. Yet because of the nature of color blindness. It

is often not detected until a child reaches school age and begins to learn colors. More males than females are color blind, and the condition cannot be corrected.

2. You should contact the area nurse or primary physician for residents who have any of the following symptoms:

- Complaints or symptoms of blurred vision.
- Constantly rubbing their eyes.
- Holding objects far or near.
- Excessive tearing.
- Drooping eyelid.
- Sensitivity to light.
- Pupil has a white or yellow hue.

DISCUSSION: