

From 1 May 2013, Medicare Benefits Schedule Item 715 (Health Assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples) guidelines have been amended and include as mandatory components

## Adult Health Assessment

- |         |                                |                        |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2.16.12 | (2) (b) history to include     | (x) 'vision'           |
|         | (2) (c) examination to include | (vi) 'eye examination' |

## Older Person's Health Assessment

- |         |                           |                       |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2.16.13 | (2) assessment to include | (i) 'eye examination' |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------|

The following recommendations outline for eye checks in health assessments are provided with input and support from Optometrists Australia (OA), Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO), Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

These recommendations provide a basic, simple and practical list of eye and vision screening steps for GPs and others providing Health Assessments.

## Recommendations for vision history and including eye examinations for adults and older persons<sup>^</sup>

### History

- Ask about problems/difficulties with vision or eyes  
{Consider 'sore or watery eye' as possible symptom of trichiasis}
- Ask about problems with glasses or contact lenses
- Ask can you see clearly and comfortably both  
when looking at things up close (eg when held in your hands) and  
when looking at things far away
- Ask/check whether the person has diabetes?

### Vision/visual acuity


- Measure near vision (binocularly, with glasses normally worn for this purpose, use any normal sized\* print at any comfortable distance)
- Measure distance vision (each eye, with glasses normally worn for this purpose, proper acuity chart)

### Eye examination

- Check eye movements
- Check pupils
- Check external and anterior eye  
Lids, lashes, conjunctiva, cornea (trichiasis, pterygium, corneal scarring...)  
Consider trachoma trichiasis 3 Ts – think, thumb, torch
- Check retina for people with diabetes  
Ophthalmoscopy (dilated# funduscopy, retinal photography or referral)

### Refer

- Vision/eye presentations where problems/difficulties not solved, including change in vision
- Diabetic retinal examination each year
- Reduced vision at near (worse than N8) or distance (worse than 6/12)



^ these recommendations apply to all people eligible for Adult and Older Person's Health Assessment including those aged from 15 to 40 years

\*N8 print for those with near charts, standard text size of newspaper or magazine, numbers within text for non-English literate and near tumbling E (available from CERA <http://www.cera.org.au/our-research/resources/vision-screening-tools>)

# dilated funduscopy conforms with NHMRC guidelines; undilated funduscopy does not meet the guidelines except with the use of a non-mydratic camera

## References

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| CARPA             | Standard Treatment Manual (2009)  |
| CERA              | <a href="http://www.cera.org.au/our-research/resources/vision-screening-tools">http://www.cera.org.au/our-research/resources/vision-screening-tools</a> |
| CRANApplus        | Clinical Procedures Manual for remote and rural practice (2009)   |
| Couzos and Murray | Aboriginal Primary Health Care (2008)   |
| DoH               | Proposed MBS changes to Adult and Older Persons health assessment (2013)  |
| DoH               | Medical Health Assessment forms (Child, Adult, Older Person)  |
| NHMRC             | Guidelines for the Management of Diabetic Retinopathy (2008)  |
| RACGP/NACCHO      | National guide to a preventative assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (2012)   |