

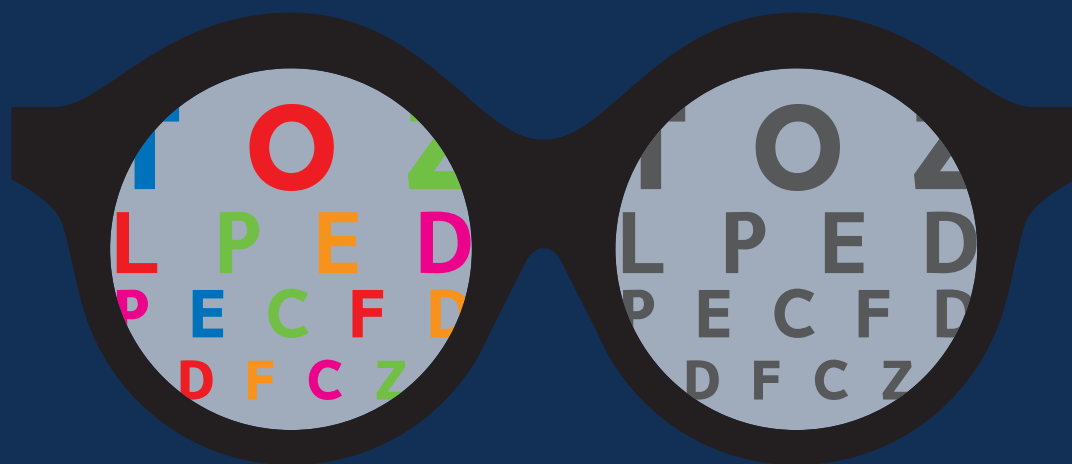
TIPS FOR CODING *blindness & low vision*

1 When the patient has an amaurosis fugax G45.3 diagnosis, do not assign a code for blindness and low vision from category H54.-. An exclusion note restricts the two codes from being used together.

2 Codes in the H54.- category capture visual disturbances related to other eye conditions such as glaucoma, cataracts and retinopathy.

3 Do not use H54.- to identify refractive errors, i.e., farsightedness or nearsightedness. Unique codes exist for these issues:
- H52.13 (Myopia, bilateral) nearsightedness in both eyes
- H52.03 (Hypermetropia, bilateral) farsightedness in both eyes

The
code for
legal
blindness
in the
U.S. is
H54.8



4 Be careful not to link blindness and low vision codes with OASIS M1200 (Vision). A low vision or blindness diagnosis is based on the patient's visual acuity as diagnosed by a physician, whereas M1200 identifies functional vision as it relates to managing within the home environment.

5 Glaucoma codes, as well as codes for other common underlying causes of low vision and blindness, do not have an instructional note to use additional code to identify the level of vision impairment. Sequencing instructions are only located at the H54.- category.

6 Add the external cause code to identify the cause of the eye condition if blindness or low vision is associated with an injury, in accordance with tabular instruction at the beginning of Chapter 7.

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