Unit 78: Measure Visual Acuity

Level: 3

Unit type: Optional (Ophthalmology)

Credit value: 3

Guided learning hours: 17

Unit summary

In this unit, you will develop the understanding and skills needed to prepare for and measure visual acuity, minimising risks and hazards and ensuring all equipment is working correctly, recording the outcomes accurately.

Unit assessment requirements

There are no specific assessment requirements for this unit. Please refer to the assessment strategy in *Annexe B.*

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

To pass this unit, learners need to demonstrate that they can meet all the learning outcomes for the unit. The assessment criteria outline the requirements that the learner is expected to meet to achieve the learning outcomes and the unit.

Learning outcomes		Assessment criteria		Evidence type	Portfolio reference	Date
1	Understand the purpose and importance of accurate measurement of visual acuity	1.1	Explain what is meant by visual acuity, the importance of visual acuity as part of patient assessment, and describe ocular structures and function essential for normal visual acuity			
		1.2	Explain how visual acuity is measured, the relationship between letter size and distance from patient, and possible errors in visual acuity testing			
		1.3	Describe errors of refraction and how they are corrected			
		1.4	Describe common types of spectacles and contact lenses used to correct errors of refraction			
		1.5	Describe common conditions that can reduce visual acuity			

Learning outcomes		Assessment criteria		Evidence type	Portfolio reference	Date
2	Know different equipment used for assessment of visual acuity for distance and near in adults and children	2.1	Describe charts used for assessing visual acuity for distance and near			
		2.2	Describe charts and methods used for testing people who are non-literate, or who have communication, learning or cognitive difficulties			
		2.3	Describe charts and methods used for testing children of different ages			
		2.4	Describe charts and methods used for testing people with vision impairment			
		2.5	Describe indications for use of pinhole			
3	Be able to establish professional relationship with patient, identifying and addressing any special needs, and maintaining patient confidentiality	3.1	Communicate effectively with the patient and carer/s, confirming patient identification, explaining personal role and nature and purpose of procedure at a level appropriate to the patient/carer's understanding, and ensuring patient has opportunity to explain any problems or difficulties			
		3.2	Identify any special needs, e.g., age, sensory impairment, physical disability, learning disability, cognitive dysfunction, and adapt communication style and testing methods to meet these needs			
		3.3	Obtain verbal consent from patient/carer			

Learning outcomes		Assessment criteria		Evidence type	Portfolio reference	Date
		3.4	Maintain patient confidentiality: auditory, written and electronic			

Learning outcomes		Assessment criteria		Evidence type	Portfolio reference	Date
4	Be able to minimise risks and hazards when measuring visual acuity	4.1	Explain how to reduce risks for patients with vision impairment, e.g., signage, contrast, lighting			
		4.2	Demonstrate how to identify hazards and minimise risks for individuals coming for visual acuity measurements			
5	Be able to ensure that all the required equipment is working correctly and safely and test environment is appropriate for the procedure	5.1	Describe procedures for calibration and maintenance of equipment			
		5.2	Ensure chart is illuminated correctly			
		5.3	Ensure room lighting is appropriate for test			

Learning outcomes		Assessment criteria		Evidence type	Portfolio reference	Date
6	Be able to measure visual acuity for distance and near	6.1	Obtain relevant history and documentation from patient and patient's record			
		6.2	Confirm patient's existing use of optical correction			
		6.3	Select appropriate test according to patient's age, co-operation, ability and any cultural and special needs			
		6.4	Control infection risks in accordance with workplace protocols			
		6.5	Position patient at the correct distance from the test chart			
		6.6	Measure visual acuity for distance and near, with and/or without optical correction, according to local protocols, encouraging the patient to read to the smallest letters they can identify			
		6.7	Ensure occluder is completely covering the non-tested eye			
		6.8	Measure visual acuity for distance with pinhole as indicated, according to local protocols			

Learning outcomes		Assessment criteria		Evidence type	Portfolio reference	Date
7	Be able to accurately record results and patient responses	7.1	Accurately document results in patient's paper or electronic record, including date, name, signature and professional role			
		7.2	Note any patient concerns, difficulties with performing the test, or other relevant information			
		7.3	Report any concerns to a more senior member of the team			

Learner name: _____ Date: _____

Learner signature: _____ Date: _____

Assessor signature: _____ Date: _____

Internal verifier signature: _____ Date: _____
(*if sampled*)