

Minutes: OD Low Vision Workgroup
 Date: Monday, February 29, 2016
 4-4:20 PM ET

Call participants: Karen Brahm, Lisa Chan-Oconnell, Greg Hopkins, Barbara Hetrick, Danielle Wilhelm, Irene Yang, Candice Law

1. LV Productivity list - update

- a. We've contacted all of the ODs on the Low vision productivity report
- b. ODs with incorrect person class, who are erroneously on the report, have been advised how to get reclassified.
- c. ODs >50% clinical time in low vision have been advised how to get mapped correctly to get on the report.
- d. Currently waiting for the next report to evaluate possible changes

2. ICD 10 codes – from Mike Williams (BRS)

The following table lists relevant ICD10 codes for triggering VERA price group 4:

ICD-10	ICD-10 DESCRIPTION	ICD-10	ICD-10 DESCRIPTION
H54.0	Blindness, both eyes	H54.12	Blindness, left eye, low vision right eye
H54.10	Blindness, one eye, low vision other eye, unspecified eyes	H54.2	Low vision, both eyes
H54.11	Blindness, right eye, low vision left eye	H54.3	Unqualified visual loss, both eyes
H54.8	Legal Blindness, as defined in USA		

3. Question through email to group regarding long white guide canes used for identification purposes. What is the general consensus for issuing these devices?

- a. pts are referred to O&M for evaluation, training, and issuance of long canes.
- b. some LV therapists and physical therapists are able to issue/train with the shorter id support canes

4. Re-accreditation of the Continuum of Care Low Vision web-based training – update

- e. 3 modules have been COPE approved, are currently undergoing 508 testing, and will then be updated to the TMS site
- f. 3 modules are going to be submitted for 508/COPE in the next 3-5 weeks
- g. 2 modules are still undergoing revision
- h. There is one new module on telehealth that is in development

5. Question about coding for LV exams. Can the 99xxx codes be used?

- a. Yes. Currently clinics are using 99xxx, 92xxx, and time based codes for LV exams
- b. LV therapy codes (ex 97533 – sensory integration techniques) can also be used by ODs doing LV training

Which leads to the next topic:

6. Updating the LV encounter form. We'd like to know what procedure codes you are using for your LV exams (ex VF, refraction, LV device assessment/training) and what support staff you have in your clinics. We may send out a short survey with the minutes.

7. Greg shared with the group a 2015 article in the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* by Tiffany Chan, et al, that looked at Medicare G-code severity modifiers to report the magnitude of changes in function as a result of therapy:

[Equating Visual Function Scales to Facilitate Reporting of Medicare Functional G-Code Severity/Complexity Modifiers for Low-Vision Patients.](#)

8. Low vision exam template - The template is available. If you are interested in using the template, please send an email to Karen (Karen.Brahm2@va.gov) with your facility's CAC's vista e-mail address. CACs at individual facilities will be able to make adjustments to the template as needed. The best way to send the template is through an exchange message to CACs at the requesting sites through their VISTA email address.

Reminder: Minutes from past calls are posted on the low vision SharePoint site. If you'd like access to this site, please e-mail Lisa: Lisa.Chan-OConnell@va.gov and she will send you a link.

Next Low Vision Conference Call: April 18, 2016 - VANTS 800-767-1750 Access code 94706