



# Department of Nursing POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 259  
VERSION: 1

## **SUBJECT: VISUAL ACUITY SCREENING**

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**PURPOSE:** To describe the process for performing visual acuity screening

**POLICY:** Visual screening will be conducted as outlined in this policy.

### **EQUIPMENT:**

- Appropriate Visual Acuity eye chart
- Undisturbed 10 or 20 foot line of vision
- Disposable eye occluders
- Well lit area for testing

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Select the appropriate Snellen chart based on age, cognitive ability, and distance patient will stand from chart.
2. Explain procedure to patient and be sure he/she understands what is expected.
3. If using a 20 foot chart, position patient 20 feet from eye chart. If using a 10 foot chart, position patient 10 feet from eye chart. Patient is to place the heels on the 10 or 20 foot line.
4. If patient wears glasses, then the test is performed using them.
5. With the use of an occlude instruct the patient to cover the left eye first, and then read line by line from the top down to the smallest letters he/she can see.
6. Instruct patient to repeat step #5 but this time covering the right eye.
7. Record the visual acuity of each eye. The numerator is the distance from the chart; the denominator is the size of the letter.

<b>POLICY NO:</b> 259	<b>SUBJECT:</b> VISUAL ACUITY SCREENING	<b>Page 2 of 2</b>
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**REFERENCES:**

California Department of Health Services, Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP)

Los Angeles County, DHS Annual Nursing Competency, Unlicensed Staff, 2012

Approved By: Susan Knapp (CHIEF NURSING OFFICER I)	
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