

**HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL**

**North Carolina Department Of Public Safety  
Prison**

**SECTION: ASSESSMENT**

**POLICY # A-11**

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**SUBJECT: Vision Screening**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: March 2017**

**SUPERCEDES DATE: June 2014**

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**PURPOSE**

To provide guidelines in conducting vision screening.

**POLICY**

All offenders will have their near and far vision screened upon entering the prison system and at the time of their periodic health examination. Nursing staff shall perform the screening during the initial intake screening, where visual acuity is a patient complaint, during chronic disease, clinics; or when otherwise deemed clinically appropriate during an assessment. Thereafter, the periodic examination is every 5 years for offenders under age 50 and every year for offenders age 50 and above.

**PROCEDURE**

1. Far vision will be screened by utilizing the Snellen eye chart at a distance of 20 feet.
2. Near vision will be screened by utilizing the Rosenbaum eye chart at a distance of 14 inches.
3. Both eyes are to be assessed with and without glasses.
4. Values are to be recorded in the Health Care Record under Optometry / Vision Screening.
5. If the offender's visual acuity is greater than 20/50, the nurse shall submit a consult for optometry clinic.
6. Yearly optometry evaluation for visual acuity and eye glasses do not require utilization review (UR) management approval; however UR approval is required for any other optometry evaluation or if an eye glass prescription is needed earlier than a year.

*Paula Y. Smith, M.D.*

4/3/2017

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Paula Y. Smith, MD, Chief of Health Services      Date

SOR: Deputy Medical Director