Visual acuity

Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at http://meteor.aihw.gov.au

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary:	NHDD		
Knowledgebase ID:	000847	Version number:	1
Metadata type:	DATA ELEMENT		
Registration Authority:	NHIMG	Admin status:	SUPERSEDED
		Effective date:	01-MAR-05
Definition:	The visual acuity test measures the smallest letters that a person can read on a standardised chart at a distance of 6 metres [20 feet] wearing glasses if needed.		
Context:	Public health, health care and clinical settings.		

Relational and Representational Attributes

	presentatio	
Datatype:	Numeric	
Representational form:	CODE	
Representation layout:	NN	
Minimum Size:	2	
Maximum Size:	2	
Data Domain:	01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12	6/5 6/6 6/9 6/12 6/18 6/24 6/36 6/60 CF (count fingers) HIM (hand movement) PL (perceive light) BL (blind)
	13 99	6/7.5 Not stated/ inadequately described

Guide For Use: Test wearing distance glasses if prescribed.

Use pinhole if vision less than 6/6.

Record actual result for both right and left eyes (this is a repeating field):

-1st field: Right eye -2nd field: Left eye.

Collection Methods: One of the most often utilised tests for visual acuity uses the Snellen chart.

-At a distance of 6 metres all subjects should be able to read the 6/6 line with each eye using the proper refractive correction. -Both eyes are to be opened and then cover one eye with the ocular

-Both eyes are to be opened and then cover one eye with the ocular occluder.

-The observer has to read out the smallest line of letters that he/she can see from the chart.

-This is to be repeated with the other eye.

Eye examination should be performed by an ophthalmologist or a suitably trained clinician:

-within five years of diagnosis and then every 1-2 years for patients whose diabetes onset was at age under 30 years

-at diagnosis and then every 1-2 years for patients whose diabetes onset was at age 30 years or more.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Blindness - diabetes complication version 1

relates to the data element Cataract - history version 1

relates to the data element Ophthalmological assessment - outcome version 1

relates to the data element Ophthalmoscopy - performed version 1 relates to the data element Referred to ophthalmologist - diabetes mellitus version 1

relates to the data element Health professionals attended - diabetes mellitus version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: National Diabetes Outcomes Quality Review Initiative (NDOQRIN) data dictionary.

Source Organisation: National Diabetes Data Working Group

Comments: Patients with diabetes have an increased risk of developing several eye complications including retinopathy, cataract and glaucoma that can lead to loss of vision.

Regular eye checkups are important for patients suffering from diabetes mellitus. This helps to detect and treat abnormalities early

and to avoid or postpone vision-threatening complications.

Assessment by an ophthalmologist is essential:

-at initial examination if the corrected visual acuity is less than 6/6 in either eye

-if at subsequent examinations declining visual acuity is detected

-if any retinal abnormality is detected

-if clear view of retina is not obtained.

References: Vision Australia, No 2, 1997/8; University of Melbourne

World Health Organization

US National Library of Medicine

Diabetes Control and Complications Trial: DCCT New England Journal of Medicine, 329(14), September 30, 1993

Principles of Care and Guidelines for the Clinical Management of Diabetes Mellitus

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element NHIM Physical wellbeing Data Agreements which include this Data Element

DSS - Diabetes (clinical)

From 01-Jan-03 to