

# Person—visual acuity (left eye), code NN

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at [meteor@aihw.gov.au](mailto:meteor@aihw.gov.au).

# Person—visual acuity (left eye), code NN

## Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Visual acuity (left eye)
METEOR identifier:	269963
Registration status:	<a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 01/03/2005
Definition:	A person's left eye visual acuity, as represented by a code.

## Data element concept attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept:	<a href="#">Person—visual acuity</a>
METEOR identifier:	269480
Registration status:	<a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 01/03/2005
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.
Object class:	<a href="#">Person</a>
Property:	<a href="#">Visual acuity</a>

## Value domain attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain:	<a href="#">Visual acuity code NN</a>
METEOR identifier:	270634
Registration status:	<a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 01/03/2005
Definition:	A code set representing visual acuity.

## Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	String
Format:	NN
Maximum character length:	2

	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	01	6/5
	02	6/6
	03	6/9
	04	6/12
	05	6/18
	06	6/24
	07	6/36

	08	6/60
	09	CF (count fingers)
	10	HM (hand movement)
	11	PL (perceive light)
	12	BL (blind)
	13	6/7.5
<b>Supplementary values:</b>	99	Not stated/inadequately described

## Data element attributes

### Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** Record actual result for both right and left eyes:

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

Test wearing distance glasses if prescribed.

Use pinhole if vision less than 6/6.

**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 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.

### Source and reference attributes

**Origin:** National Diabetes Outcomes Quality Review Initiative (NDOQRIN) data dictionary

**Reference documents:** 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

### Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

Is re-engineered from  [Visual acuity, version 1, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (19.3 KB)

*No registration status*

See also [Person—visual acuity \(right eye\), code NN Health, Standard 01/03/2005](#)

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:** [Diabetes \(clinical\) DSS](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 21/09/2005

***DSS specific information:***

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

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

[Diabetes \(clinical\) NBPDS](#)

[Health](#), Standard 21/09/2005

***DSS specific information:***

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.