BEYOND VISION SCREENING: ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO CARE
A GUIDE FOR SCHOOL NURSES

IF UNCORRECTED, VISION IMPAIRMENTS CAN:

- Negatively impact a child’s development
- Lead to behavioral problems in the classroom
- Interfere with early literacy and learning
- Lead to permanent vision loss
- Continue to affect health and well-being into adulthood

WHICH STUDENTS ARE MOST AT RISK?

Those who:

- Experience neurodevelopmental delays
- Have a family history of vision disorder
- Had a pre-mature birth or low birth weight
- Have difficulty achieving developmental milestones
- Have a systemic disease (diabetes, juvenile diabetes)
- Use medications known to cause vision problems
- Have difficulty screening or have failed the screening
- Live in low-income/under-resourced communities
- Face societal health inequities/disparities

COMMON OBSTACLES TO CARE

- Access to eye doctor
- Cost/insurance coverage
- Can’t take time off from work
- Lack of transportation to/from appointments
- Language barriers
- Lack of trust in system
- Cultural concerns/beliefs
- Lack of knowledge about importance of good vision

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO TREATMENT

- Send home culturally appropriate materials
- Call families of students you’re referring (with translator)
- Know specific resources available in your community
- Build positive relationships with families
- Promote overall family well-being
- Co-create solutions to unique barriers with families
- Develop and monitor written eye care follow up plan

For additional resources, visit: https://cme.bu.edu/shield.bu.edu/health-screenings

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