

Certification of a Person as Sight Impaired (partially sighted) or Severely Sight Impaired (blind) in Northern Ireland

Patient Information Sheet

This Certificate of Vision Impairment (CVI) has three main functions:

1. It qualifies you to be listed with your local Health and Social Care Trust as sight impaired (partially sighted) or severely sight impaired (blind).
2. It lets your local Health and Social Care Trust know about your sight loss. They also have a duty to contact you to see if you need help with day-to-day tasks. They have a duty to establish and maintain records of sight loss.
3. The CVI records important information about the cause of your sight loss. It helps the health and social care service to identify any trends in certain eye conditions and helps with planning services.

What will happen next?

Being certified as severely sight impaired does not necessarily mean that you are totally without sight, or will lose all of your sight in the future.

If you have decided that your local social care team can receive your details, they will contact you in the coming weeks to talk about vision rehabilitation and other support that might help you.

Certification is often a positive step towards getting support to help you to be as independent as possible.

Certification makes it easier for you to prove to service providers, employers, schools, colleges or other people what your level of sight is. Certification will also assist you, and anyone caring for you, to become eligible for certain entitlements, including benefits.

What happens to information which I have consented to share?

You have indicated whether or not you want information about your sight loss to be shared, and with whom. The information will be used in the following ways:

1. Your GP will keep this information in your medical record.
2. The Department of Health (and its agencies) will not use any of your personal information. They will use only the information about your sight loss for research and service planning purposes. Obtaining information about eye conditions is important as it can lead to improvements to eye services and medical developments in the future.
3. Your local social care team keeps a record of patients who have sight loss to ensure that they are offered appropriate support. You do not have to accept any support offered to you.
4. RNIB will use the information to deliver the Eye Clinic Liaison (ECLO) Service.

Driving

As a driver with sight loss you must inform the DVLA of this at the earliest opportunity. Whilst the DVLA will consider each case on an individual basis, it is likely that if you have been given this information you should not continue to drive. For more information, please contact the DVLA at: Drivers Medical Branch, DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1TU Telephone 0300 790 6806 Email eftd@dvla.gsi.gov.uk

Health and Social Care Trust Sensory Support Teams

BELFAST TRUST

Tel: 028 9504 0200 Textphone: 028 9091 2197

Mobile (sms only): 0773 888 3116

SOUTH EASTERN TRUST - NORTH DOWN & ARDS

Tel: 028 9151 0136 Minicom: 028 9151 0137 Mobile: 07734 282 646

SOUTH EASTERN TRUST - DOWNPATRICK

Tel: 028 4461 6915 Minicom: 028 4461 4744 Mobile: 07739 879 556

SOUTH EASTERN TRUST - LISBURN

Tel: 028 9260 7746 Minicom: 028 9260 3120 Mobile: 07739 879 554

NORTHERN TRUST

Tel: 028 2586 3800 Email: sensorysupport@northerntrust.hscni.net

WESTERN TRUST - DERRY/LONDONDERRY

Tel: 028 7132 0167 Minicom: 028 7132 0166 Mob: 077 9644 8367

WESTERN TRUST – FERMANAGH/TYRONE

Tel/Minicom: 028 6632 4400 Mob: 077 9565 0125

SOUTHERN TRUST – Craigavon/Banbridge/South Down/Newry East

Tel: 028 3839 4088 Minicom: 028 3839 4738 Mobile: 07834 929 124

Email: sensory.cherrytrees@southerntrust.hscni.net

SOUTHERN TRUST – Armagh/Dungannon/South Armagh/Newry West

Tel: 028 3756 4444 Minicom: 028 3741 2421 Mobile: 07919 103 501

E-mail: sensory.jacksonhall@southerntrust.hscni.net

Further information, advice and support

RNIB: Tel: 0303 123 9999 www.rnib.org.uk

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU: www.citizensadvice.org.uk