

VISION READINESS SCREENING GUIDE

The purpose of this guide is to assist vision readiness screeners in performing and recording the vision readiness screening and to aide vision readiness data entry by MEDPROS users.

POLICY: The vision readiness of each Soldier will be assessed at least annually.

VISION READINESS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

- Class 1:** Soldiers whose best-corrected visual acuity is 20/20 or better for all required visual acuity screenings. They possess all required optical devices. No corrective action is required.
- Class 2:** Soldiers whose best-corrected binocular visual acuity is worse than 20/20 but at least 20/40 in the poorest of their required visual acuity screenings. They possess all required optical devices. Class 2 also includes individuals possessing a waiver for binocular visual acuity worse than 20/40.
- Class 3:** Soldiers who are either not optically ready and/or not visually ready:
- Class 3-O:** Not optically ready. Soldiers whose best-corrected binocular visual acuity is better than or equal to 20/40 for all required visual acuity screenings, but who do not possess all required optical devices. Optical devices are required.
 - Class 3-V:** Not visually ready. Soldiers whose best-corrected binocular visual acuity is worse than 20/40 in the poorest of their required visual acuity screenings. They do not meet visual acuity standards. Comprehensive eye examination and optical devices are required.
- Class 4:** Soldiers who have not been screened within one year. Vision readiness screening is required.

Soldiers in class 1 and class 2 will be considered fully ready. Soldiers in class 3(O or V) or class 4 are deficient. Soldiers in class 3 or 4 at the time of screening will immediately be reclassified in MEDPROS after obtaining corrective vision/optical services.

THE VISION READINESS SCREENING AND CLASSIFICATION (VRSC)

VRSC includes the following components: visual acuity screening(s), physical verification of required optical devices, recording the results on the screening form, and entry of results in MEDPROS.

Visual Acuity Screening

General Considerations

1. Instruct the soldiers before the screening that their habitual correction (glasses, not contact lenses) is required.
2. Illumination: Test visual acuity in a well lit room with even illumination. Do not hang the eye chart in a dark corner of the room or next to a window.
3. The test distance for the distance visual acuity screening is 20 feet. Carefully measure and mark this distance to ensure the accuracy of the screening.
4. Measure visual acuity binocularly (soldier has both eyes open).
5. Use standard Snellen distance and near acuity charts.
 - a) Distance acuity charts examples: NSN : 6515-00-350-2979, or 6540-00-598-8078
 - b) Near visual cards examples: NSN: 6515-00-388-5830, or 6540-00-598-8077
6. Standard Snellen distance and near acuity charts are the preferred method of visual acuity screening. Standardized vision testers, such as the Titmus 2e and Optec 3000 etc., are the only authorized alternate visual acuity screening method. The use of standardized vision testers is not described in this guide and can be found in the manufacturer's user guides.

Distance Visual Acuity Screening

1. PERFORM DISTANCE VISUAL ACUITY SCREENING ON **ALL** SOLDIERS. No exceptions.
2. OPTICAL CORRECTION (GLASSES) GUIDANCE:
 - a) **Soldier wears glasses habitually for all viewing distances.** Test visual acuity with correction in place. Instruct soldiers who forgot their glasses to return with their glasses to be screened.
 - b) **Soldier has glasses for distance, but does not wear them.** Test and record distance visual acuity without the glasses and then through the glasses. Record the results of both screenings. Instruct soldiers who forgot their glasses to return with their glasses to be screened.
 - c) **Soldier has not been prescribed glasses** (or no longer has their prescribed glasses). Test and record uncorrected visual acuity only.

3. DISTANCE VISUAL ACUITY SCREENING PROCEDURES:

- a) Direct the soldier to remain behind the line on the floor that marks the 20 foot test distance.
- b) Direct the soldier to wear prescribed distance glasses (if any).
- c) Direct the soldier to leave both eyes open and not squint.
- d) Direct the soldier to read the 20/20 line on the chart. If the soldier doesn't make any errors the distance screening is complete. Encourage the soldiers to guess at the letters when they tell you they can't see them. Often, people just don't want to be wrong so they won't name a letter unless they are absolutely sure of what it is.
- e) If the soldier can not complete the 20/20 line accurately direct them to read the 20/40 line. Encourage the soldiers to guess at the letters when they tell you they can't see them.
- f) If a soldier reads a line making only one error, encourage the soldier to slowly read another line of the same size (if available) or to reread the original line from right to left (backwards). If no errors are made the soldier should be given credit for the line.
- g) Record the results as in described on page 5 (Recording the Results)

Near Visual Acuity Screening

1. PERFORM NEAR VISUAL ACUITY SCREENING **ONLY** ON SOLDIERS 45 YEARS OLD OR OLDER.
2. OPTICAL CORRECTION (GLASSES) GUIDANCE:
 - a) **Soldier wears glasses habitually for all viewing distances.** Screen soldier's near visual acuity with correction in place. Many soldiers over 45 wear bifocal or progressives (no-line bifocals) and will fall into this category. If the soldier wears bifocal or progressive glasses they are required to have bifocal Protective Mask Inserts (PMI's)
 - b) **Soldier wears glasses for distance, but removes them for reading.** Test and record near visual acuity uncorrected and through the glasses. This is important to determine if the soldier requires bifocal PMI's. Soldiers who require protective mask inserts for distance viewing and whose near visual acuity is worse than 20/40 through their distance glasses are required to have bifocal PMI's.
 - c) **Soldier wears glasses only for near viewing/reading.** Test and record near visual acuity uncorrected and through the glasses. If the soldier's uncorrected near visual acuity is less than 20/40 they are required to have bifocal PMI's.
 - d) **Soldier does not wear glasses for any distance.** Test and record uncorrected near visual acuity only.
3. TEST DISTANCE: 16 inches or 40 cm. Care must be taken to maintain the correct testing distance to ensure accuracy.

4. NEAR VISUAL ACUITY SCREENING PROCEDURES:

- a) Hold the near visual acuity card 16 inches from the soldier in a normal reading position. If the soldier holds the card the test distance must be monitored closely. Soldiers will unconsciously move the card to the position where they can most easily view it.
- b) Direct the soldier to leave both eyes open and not squint.
- c) Direct the soldier to read the 20/20 line on the card.
- d) If the Soldier can not complete the 20/20 line accurately direct them to read the 20/40 line. Encourage the soldiers to guess at the letters when they tell you they can't see them.
- e) If a soldier reads a line making only one error, encourage the soldier to slowly read another line of the same size (if available) or to reread the original line from right to left (backwards). If no errors are made the soldier should be given credit for the line.
- f) Record the results as described on page 5(Recording the Results).

Contact Lenses

1. Soldiers will not wear contact lenses during the screening unless they are mission required.
2. If a soldier wears mission required contact lenses, test distance visual acuity once with contact lenses and once with glasses. The contact lens visual acuity screening will be performed in the same manner as the distance visual acuity screening.
3. Mission Required Contact Lenses (MRCL) are contact lenses procured at government expense IAW AR 40-63. Contact lenses procured at an individual soldier's expense even if prescribed by a military medical provider and habitually worn are NOT mission required.

Visual Acuity Documentation

1. For each required visual acuity screening (distance, near- if required and MRCL-if required) document the visual acuity group each soldier falls into based on the following definitions:
 - Group 1:** Visual acuity 20/20 or better
 - Group 2:** Visual acuity worse than 20/20 but at least 20/40.
 - Group 3:** Visual acuity worse than 20/40
2. Soldiers with documented medical wavier for corrected visual acuity less than 20/40 will have wavier "Y" (yes) documented. For all others "N" (no) will be recorded.

Verification of Required Optical Devices

Soldiers will be required to physically show their required optical devices to the screener.

Required Optical Devices

1. Glasses – Two pair of glasses are required for all soldiers with worse than 20/40 unaided binocular visual acuity. One pair of glasses may be Combat Eye Protection Spectacle (CEP) corrective insert, military issue including frame of choice, or civilian. The second pair may be military issue, including frame of choice or civilian.
2. Protective Mask Insert (PMI) - One PMI shall be required for all soldiers with worse than 20/40 unaided binocular distance visual acuity. Bifocal PMI is required for all soldiers age 45 or older whose corrected or uncorrected near visual acuity is worse than 20/40.
3. Mission Required Contact Lenses – Contact lens procured at government expense IAW AR 40-63. Contact lenses procured at an individual soldier's expense even if prescribed by a military medical provider and habitually worn are **not** mission required.

Documentation

1. Indicate whether the soldier has the required devices as defined in “Required Optical Devices” above by answering “Yes”, “No” or “NA” to each requirement.
 - a) **2 pair of glasses**
 - Yes: Soldier requires and has two pair of serviceable glasses as
 - No: Soldier requires but does not have two pair of serviceable glasses
 - NA: Soldier does not require glasses
 - b) **Protective mask insert (PMI)**
 - Yes: Soldier has PMI for protective device
 - No: Soldier requires but does not have PMI
 - NA: Soldier not required PMI
 - c) **Mission required contact lenses**
 - Yes: Soldier has mission required contact lenses
 - No: Soldier requires but does not have mission required contact lenses
 - NA: Soldier ineligible for contact lens program or contacts not required

Recording the Results

The results of visual acuity screening and verification of required optical devices will be recorded on either the individual vision readiness worksheet (to be overprinted on an SF 600) (appendix B) and/or the unit vision readiness spreadsheet (appendix C).

1. Record the screening date
2. Record demographic information: Name/Rank, SS#, and Age/DOB
3. Record visual acuity as described on page 4 (Visual Acuity Documentation).
4. Record required optical devices as described on page 5 (Verification of Required Optical Devices).
5. Record wavier Y or N. Soldiers with documented medical wavier for corrected visual acuity less than 20/40 will have wavier "Y" (yes) documented. For all others "N" (no) will be recorded.
6. The screener will validate the individual vision readiness worksheet or the unit vision readiness spreadsheet with their signature.
7. The individual vision readiness worksheet when overprinted on an SF 600 and validated by medical personnel will be posted to the Soldier's individual medical record.
8. The unit vision readiness spreadsheet will be maintained by the unit until MEDPROS is updated.

Referral for Corrective Action

Soldiers identified as Class 3 (V or O) will be immediately referred for corrective vision/optical services IAW local SOP as established by the local Chief of Optometry, Unit Surgeon, or Medical Commander.

Entry into MEDPROS

All vision readiness screening data will be entered into the vision readiness module of MEDPROS. MEDPROS is the repository for all individual medical requirements including vision readiness.

When vision readiness data can not be entered directly to MEDPROS as the screening occurs unit MEDPROS users will only enter data from the individual vision readiness worksheet or the unit vision readiness spreadsheet that is validated by the screener.

Soldiers identified as Class 3 (V or O) that have not already been referred by the unit screener will immediately be referred for corrective action IAW local SOP as established by the local Chief of Optometry, Unit Surgeon, or Medical Commander.

Soldiers identified as Class 3 (V or O) will be reclassified in MEDPROS immediately after obtaining corrective vision/optical services IAW local SOP as established by the local Chief of Optometry, Unit Surgeon, or Medical Commander.

DEFINITIONS

Vision Screening: Vision screening tests visual acuity only. It is a quick way to detect vision problems that can be performed by anyone. It is **NOT** an eye exam. Refer all soldiers that fail a vision screening (visual acuity less than 20/40 best corrected) for an eye exam. Within the vision readiness screening required optical devices are also verified. Refer those with optical device deficiencies to order deficient items.

Eye Exam: An eye exam is a comprehensive battery of tests performed by an eye care professional (optometrist or ophthalmologist) to determine the refractive status (prescription for glasses), eye health, and muscle balance of the eyes.