

**c. Specialty Examination –Vision Evaluation**

- (1) **Chief Complaint:** State the major or chief complaint(s) alleged as a reason for inability to work. Describe how the impairments(s) affect function and daily activities. Clarify functional loss by providing specific examples of capabilities and activities of daily living.
- (2) **Review of Records.** Brief summary or list of background material/medical records received and reviewed.
- (3) **History.** Comment on reliability and consistency of client’s reporting.
  - (a) **Present impairment.**
    - i. Date of onset (birth, injury, illness).
    - ii. Progression of symptomatology.
    - iii. Treatment and response.
    - iv. Current medications.
    - v. Factors that increase the problem.
    - vi. Factors that provide relief.
    - vii. Brief description of activities of daily living.
  - (b) **Past history.** Describe other prior illnesses, injuries, operations, or hospitalizations. Give dates of these events.
  - (c) **Social history** Include pertinent findings about use of tobacco products, alcohol, non-prescription drugs, etc.
  - (d) **Family history** (if pertinent).
- (4) **Physical Exam:** Include a description and discussion (where appropriate) of:
  - (a) General appearance/observations. Describe the client’s general appearance and pertinent actions during the exam. For example, “client tripped over a trash can and bumped into a chair while in the waiting room”.
  - (b) Best Corrected Visual Acuity. Provide visual acuity for each eye with and without correction.
  - (c) External findings
    - i. Describe gross findings of the lids, cilia, size of palpebral fissure, any disparity in size. Describe cornea as well as conjunctiva and sclera. Include range of motion/mobility. Describe size and note shape (round, eccentric, etc.) of pupils.
    - ii. Provide funduscopic exam findings. Include visualization, fundus cup-ratio, macular visualization and findings for both eyes.

- iii. Include slit lamp examination.
  - iv. Intraocular tension (include device used, i.e. Applination, Schoitz or Tono-Pen)
- (5) **Visual Fields.** In instances where Visual Field measurements are requested by the DDDS, the measurements need to be obtained with an automated static threshold perimetry test or kinetic perimetry that satisfies all of the following requirements:
- (a) Must use optical projection to generate the test stimuli;
  - (b) Must have an internal normative database for automatically comparing your performance with that of the general population;
  - (c) Must have a statistical analysis package that is able to calculate visual field indices, particularly mean deviation;
  - (d) Must demonstrate the ability to correctly detect visual field loss and correctly identify normal visual fields;
  - (e) Must demonstrate good test-retest reliability; and
  - (f) Must have undergone clinical validation studies by three or more independent laboratories.
- (6) **Actual perimetry test requirements include:\***
- (a) Must have a stimulus of White III4e or equivalent (10dB or greater);
  - (b) Must have a 31.5 apolstilb (10 cd/m<sup>2</sup>) white background; and
  - (c) Must have a strategy of full threshold, SITA-standard or Fast Pack.
- \*Humphrey Field Analyzer 30-2 or Goldmann is preferred*
- (7) **Laboratory and Diagnostic Studies:** Do not perform studies unless they have been specifically authorized in advance.
- (8) **Diagnosis/Conclusion/Impression:** This should be determined based on observations during the examination and objective clinical evidence, not on allegations or presumptions. Note any non-physiological responses to testing
- (9) **Medical Source Statement:** Based on the objective examination findings, give an opinion of the claimants ability to perform work related activities, despite their impairment, such as ability to drive, work with machinery, use a computer and to perform close and detailed work.

When reporting restrictions in visual acuity and fields, include other observations to substantiate the degree of restrictions. For example, provide information regarding claimant's orientation in environment, i.e., degree of difficulty encountered when maneuvering in strange surroundings. Include whether or not claimant was accompanied to exam, etc.