Low Vision Rehabilitation: Concepts, Resources, & Practical Applications for Managing Patients with Vision Loss

Presented by:
Jenice D. Heck, LOTR, MMC
Director of Vision Rehabilitation Services for The Lighthouse for the Blind in New Orleans
Deborah Bennett, LOTR
Low Vision Specialist, Lighthouse Low Vision Clinic, The Lighthouse for the Blind in New Orleans

Saturday, September 22, 2012
Fontana Center
709 Kaliste Saloom Road,
Lafayette, LA 70508
8AM - 3PM
(Registration begins at 7:30AM)

“Clinicians will return to their practice with the tools to identify patients with visual deficits, to optimize functional vision during daily tasks, to support safe mobility, and to facilitate ADL independence for patients with varying degrees of vision loss.”

Jenice D. Heck, LOTR, MMC

Jenice Heck received a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from the LSU Medical Center School of Allied Health Professions in 1996 and a master’s degree in Mass Communication from the LSU Manesh School of Mass Communication in 2003. She has been an OT for 16 years with broad experience in Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation. Ms. Heck has worked exclusively in Vision Rehabilitation for the past 9 years and is currently the Director of Vision Rehabilitation Services at The Lighthouse for the Blind in New Orleans, where she continues to supervise 20 education and training programs for visually impaired youth and adults to include: services for Daily Living Skills, Orientation & Mobility, Braille, Assistive Technology, Peer Support, Social Services, Information & Referral, and Transportation. She also directs the Lighthouse Low Vision Clinic; the only Occupational Therapy Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinic in the state of Louisiana. Additionally, Ms. Heck represents The Lighthouse in a variety of outreach programs and services to foster public awareness for individuals with vision loss. She is an annual guest lecturer for the LSUHSC Occupational Therapy program, the Delgado Community College Occupational Therapy Assistant program, the LSUHSC Audiology program, and the LSU-Ochsner Ophthalmology Residency program. She provides sensitivity training to local medical facilities, the New Orleans Council on Aging Senior Companion Program, area schools, and a variety of special interest groups. Most recently, she presented a 3-hour lecture on The Role of Occupational Therapy in Low Vision Rehabilitation at the 2012 Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association State Conference in Shreveport, LA.

Deborah Bennett, LOTR

Due to years of personal and professional experience with sight loss, Ms. Heck has advanced knowledge in adaptive tools and techniques for managing patients with vision impairment. Being visually impaired since birth, Ms. Heck has always viewed her blindness as an asset, utilizing her skills for adaptation and creativity to help others overcome their disabilities. She states, “Vision loss may limit a person’s ability to process visual information, but it does not limit a person’s ability to function, if the right tools are in the toolbox.”

Deborah Bennett graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from the LSU Medical Center School of Allied Health Professions in 1996. She has worked primarily with older adults in the acute care, long term care, outpatient and homecare environments. She specialized in neurological rehabilitation until 2008, when Ms. Bennett accepted the challenge of collaborating in the reopening of The Lighthouse for The Blind Low Vision Clinic under the Occupational Therapy Model. For the past four years she has worked exclusively in the area of Low Vision Rehabilitation providing low vision assessments, visual skills training, adaptive device training, environmental modifications, and community education.
Course Description
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Did you know that one in six adults age 45 or older report some form of visual impairment? Statistics indicate that the prevalence of low vision continues to rise as people age. Therefore, clinicians working in adult settings must be prepared to accommodate their visually impaired patients for optimum safety and progress in all areas of practice.

This one day seminar will provide clinicians with ready-to-use, practical information about low vision rehabilitation and how to integrate adapted techniques into daily practice. From activity analysis in the clinic to environmental modifications in the home, participants will examine and discuss the role of identifying low vision issues in all practice areas of patient care. Specific interventions to enhance safety and level of function for adult and geriatric populations will be outlined and current adaptive devices for the visually impaired will be explored.

Clinicians will return to their practice with the tools to identify patients with visual deficits, to optimize functional vision during daily tasks, to support safe mobility, and to facilitate ADL independence for patients with varying degrees of vision loss.

Learning Objectives
Participants will be able to:
- Define low vision and discuss the leading causes of vision impairment in older adults.
- Explain the concept of Low Vision Rehabilitation and identify appropriate resources for patient referral.
- Identify the six components of vision and how various eye conditions affect functional vision during daily activities.
- Identify evaluation tools and treatment techniques to enhance occupational performance for patients with vision loss.
- Demonstrate proficiency to safely assist visually impaired patients with mobility, transfers, and various routine tasks in all areas of practice.
- Recognize environmental hazards and appropriate modifications that affect safety and occupational performance for patients with low vision in various settings.
- Understand magnification, lighting, and solar shields as modalities for enhancing functional vision.
- Identify resources and adaptive devices available to assist patients with vision loss in performing their ADL's and IADL's.

Professional Continuing Education = 6 Hours

Course Cost:

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Online Course Registration

To register for this event online:
- Go to lota.org and click on “Events”.

Low Vision Registration Form:

Please circle one of the following based on your 2012 membership status.

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