# Care of the Visually Impaired Resident

**Purpose**

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidelines when providing care to the visually impaired resident.

**Preparation**

1. Review the resident’s care plan to assess for any special needs of the resident.

**General Guidelines**

1. Use the resident’s name when speaking to him/her so he/she will know you are speaking to him/her. Introduce anyone else who may be with you.
2. Always speak directly to the resident.
3. Ask the resident if he/she needs help in performing ADLs.
4. Let the resident know when you leave the room.
5. Use large lettering on any distributed written information.
6. Use nightlights to help the resident with dark adaptation problems.
7. When the resident dines, ask if he/she needs assistance. If so, describe the location of the place setting and food on the plate according to the clock face (e.g., meat at 12 o’clock, potato at 6 o’clock, etc.).
8. Leave doors in the open or closed positions only. A partially closed door may be difficult for the resident to see.
9. Be sure that travel paths in the resident’s room are clear and present no accident hazards.
10. Attempt to keep the environment consistent by leaving objects in their designated locations.
11. Keep lighting bright and at consistent levels. Eliminate as much glare and reflection as possible.
12. Respect the resident’s privacy. He or she may or may not wish to discuss blindness issues with you. Remember that his/her disability is only one feature of his/her personality.
13. Allow the resident to be as independent as possible.

**Documentation**

The following information should be recorded in the resident’s medical record as necessary.

1. The date and time that care was given.
2. The name and title of the individual(s) who assisted with the care.
3. All assessment data obtained while performing providing care to the resident.
4. If the resident refused the care, the reason(s) why and the intervention taken.
5. The signature and title of the person recording the data.

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### Reporting

1. Notify the supervisor if the resident refuses the care.
2. Report other information in accordance with facility policy and professional standards of practice.

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