

POLICY STATEMENT

Amblyopia is a Medical Condition

A Joint Statement of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus and the American Academy of Ophthalmology

POLICY

Amblyopia is a medical condition which requires medical treatment. Amblyopia (ICD codes 368.0, 368.00, 368.01, 368.02, 368.03) is typically a preventable and treatable form of vision loss. Unless amblyopia is treated promptly during childhood, structural changes occur in the brain of the amblyopic child, resulting in decreased visual function.

Optical correction such as eyeglasses or contact lenses may be medically indicated as a part of amblyopia treatment in addition to other modalities, such as patching and/or pharmacologic treatment. Unless amblyopia is treated during childhood, vision loss is likely to be irreversible.

Approved by: American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
Board of Directors, March 2002
American Academy of Ophthalmology
Board of Trustees, April 2002

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