



Category of Visual Impairment

The table on the right gives a classification of severity of visual impairment recommended by a WHO Study Group on the Prevention of Blindness, Geneva, 6-10 November 1972.

The term “low vision” in category H54 comprises categories 1 and 2 of the table, the term “blindness” categories 3, 4 and 5.

If the extent of the visual field is taken into account, patients with a field no greater than 10 but greater than 5 around central fixation should be placed in category 3, and patients with a field no greater than 5 around central fixation should be placed in category 4, even if the central acuity is not impaired.

Category of Visual Impairment	Visual Acuity with Best Possible Correction	
	Maximum less than:	Minimum equal to or better than:
1	6/18	6/60
	3/10 (0.3)	1/10 (0.1)
	20/70	20/200
2	6/60	3/60
	1/10 (0.1)	1/20 (0.05)
	20/200	20/400
3	3/60	1/60 (CF at one meter)
	1/20 (0.05)	1/50 (0.02)
	20/400	5/300 (20/1200)
4	1/60 (CF at one meter)	Light perception
	1/50 (0.02)	
	5/300	
5	No light perception	



Vision Rehabilitation ICD-10 Codes

Blindness Both Eyes	RT	LT
H54.0X	3	3
H54.0X	3	4
H54.0X	3	5
H54.0X	4	3
H54.0X	4	4
H54.0X	4	5
H54.0X	5	3
H54.0X	5	4
H54.0X	5	5

Low Vision RT Blindness LT	RT	LT
H54.12	1	3
H54.12	1	4
H54.12	1	5
H54.12	2	3
H54.12	2	4
H54.12	2	5

Blindness RT Normal Vision LT	RT	LT
H54.41	3	A
H54.41	4	A
H54.41	5	A

Low Vision RT Normal Vision LT	RT	LT
H54.51	1	A
H54.51	2	A

Blindness RT Low Vision LT	RT	LT
H54.11	3	1
H54.11	3	2
H54.11	4	1
H54.11	4	2
H54.11	5	1
H54.11	5	2

Low Vision Both Eyes	RT	LT
H54.2X	1	1
H54.2X	1	2
H54.2X	2	1
H54.2X	2	2

Normal Vision RT Blindness LT	RT	LT
H54.42	A	3
H54.42	A	4
H54.42	A	5

Normal Vision RT Low Vision LT	RT	LT
H54.52	A	1
H54.52	A	2

Low vision identified by categories 1 and 2

Blindness identified by categories 3, 4, and 5

A = Normal vision