Medical Professional Facts

Having to inform a patient that he or she is legally blind is difficult. As a medical practitioner, you can provide help and hope even in the midst of this life-changing diagnosis by referring your patient to the New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB), the State vocational rehabilitation agency that helps individuals who are blind or visually impaired to live independent lives.

Eligibility
NYSCB provides services to legally blind people of all ages in New York State with a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with best correction, or a visual field of no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye.

What We Do
NYSCB’s professional staff can provide travel and living skills training to help individuals maintain independence at home, at work and in the community.

Services may include:
• Counseling, assessment and casework services
• Mobility instruction and rehabilitation teaching
• Low vision devices and assistive technology, plus training on how to use them

For those currently employed or seeking employment, NYSCB Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors work to identify and meet training needs for job success and provide assistance throughout the job search and hiring process.

Our expert staff works with a network of non-profit groups, rehabilitation agencies and private vendors to stay informed on the latest advances for workplace and home technology and training for blind and visually impaired people. All services are provided at no cost to your patient.

For Those With Visual Impairments Who Are Not Legally Blind
People with severe progressive visual impairments who are not legally blind may qualify for the Job Save Program. NYSCB program staff recommends workplace enhancements and training to help patients retain employment and adapt to their impairments. NYSCB can also assist employers in making needed accommodations.

To Refer A Patient To NYSCB
• Provide your patient with contact information for NYSCB
• For patients with a diagnosis of legal blindness, make the required notification to NYSCB using form OCFS-4599 Report of Legal Blindness/Request for Information.

For further information contact NYSCB at:
1-866-871-3000 or visionloss.ny.gov