



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

New ICD-10 Codes For October 1, 2017

Starting on October 1, 2017 new diagnosis code changes will go into effect related to conditions treated in optometric practice. Changes and revisions were made to codes for degenerative myopia (H44.2) to allow for greater specificity in reporting. New codes were added for degenerative myopia with choroidal neovascularization (H44.2A); degenerative myopia with macular hole (H44.2B); degenerative myopia with retinal detachment (H44.2C); degenerative myopia with foveoschisis (H44.2D) and degenerative myopia with other maculopathy (H44.2E). Additionally, over 50 new codes were added to the blindness and low vision (H54) code set. These new codes are intended to allow physicians to more accurately capture the vision status of their patients with low vision and to allow for doctors to report the category of visual impairment that exists, as defined by the World Health Organization. As an example of these changes related to low vision and blindness, the new codes for H54.0 are listed below.

H54.0 Blindness, both eyes

Visual impairment categories 3, 4, 5 in both eyes.

H54.0X Blindness, both eyes, different category levels

H54.0X3 Blindness right eye, category 3

H54.0X33 Blindness right eye category 3, blindness left eye category 3

H54.0X34 Blindness right eye category 3, blindness left eye category 4

H54.0X35 Blindness right eye category 3, blindness left eye category 5

H54.0X4 Blindness right eye, category 4

H54.0X43 Blindness right eye category 4, blindness left eye category 3

H54.0X44 Blindness right eye category 4, blindness left eye category 4

H54.0X45 Blindness right eye category 4, blindness left eye category 5

[A complete overview of coding changes for low vision and blindness is available at:](https://www.aoa.org/Documents/ICD10CodeChangesOverview.pdf)

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The World Health Organization’s classification of severity of visual impairment is included below, for reference. This chart should be used to determine the category of visual impairment.

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

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 (0.30)	1/10 (0.10)
	20/70	20/200
2	6/60	3/60
	1/10 (0.10)	1/20 (0.50)
	20/200	20/400
3	3/60	1/60 (CF at 1 meter)
	1/20 (0.05)	1/50 (0.02)
	20/400	5/300 (20/1200)
4	1/60 (CF at 1 meter)	Light perception
	1/50 (0.02)	
	5/300	
5	No light perception	
9	Undetermined/unspecified	

CF = central fixation

The term *low vision* in category H54 comprises categories 1 and 2 of the table, the term *blindness* categories 3, 4, and 5, and the term *unqualified visual loss* category 9.

If the extent of the visual field is taken into account, patients with a field no greater than 10 degrees but greater than 5 around central fixation should be placed in category 3; 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.

For the complete listing of codes changes that go into effect on October 1, purchase the 2018 version of *Codes for Optometry* available at: www.aoa.org/marketplace

AOA is fully engaged in the procedural and diagnosis code development process. If you believe there are diagnosis codes that could be added, revised or eliminated, please contact Kara Webb at kcwebb@aoa.org