

## Job Description

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<b>Job Title:</b>	Vision Rehabilitation Specialist, High Technology
<b>Department:</b>	Centre for Sight Enhancement
<b>Reports To:</b>	CSE Administrator
<b>Jobs Reporting:</b>	None
<b>Salary Grade:</b>	USG 7/8
<b>Effective Date:</b>	December 2018

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### **Primary Purpose**

The Vision Rehabilitation Specialist, High Technology is responsible for assessing patients for adaptive technologies for the blind and visually impaired, determines the patient's eligibility for government funding towards the purchase of technology devices and provides training with visual aids. The Vision Rehabilitation Specialist, High Technology works as part of a vision rehabilitation team comprised of optometrists, optometry student interns, an optometric resident, a vision therapist, a high technology assessment specialist, a counsellor, a counselling intern and a social work intern.

### **Key Accountabilities**

#### **Clinical/Home Assessments**

- Review patient intake information, other clinical assessments and reports prior to patient assessment to understand patient's condition, history, capabilities and goals.
- Communicate and collaborate with rehab team, other health care workers, and teachers in patient's circle of care and provide input and recommendations for patient's rehabilitation program.
- Visit/assess/work with patient in the clinic, community or home setting.
- Perform high technology assessments exploring a variety of adaptive technologies for the blind or visually impaired patient. Devices explored might include Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems, adapted computer systems and combined systems. Consider different input technology (keyboard only, keyboard and mouse, braille displays, voice recognition) related to productivity, recreation and special accessibility programs. Consider use of appropriate environmental modifications such as ergonomics, illumination and size control, speech output settings, tactual markings.
- Identify modifications and alternatives to adapt vision aids for accommodation of other disabilities.
- Train patient in the use of high technology or low technology adaptive equipment.
- Identify accessibility problems in the home environment and suggest solutions.
- Adjust assessment and communication styles as required for patient.
- Refer patient for additional services (e.g. other services within clinic or Augmentative Communications Clinics) as required.
- Complete exam notes, evaluation reports and recommendations, funding applications, statistics and other required paperwork in a timely fashion.
- Follow-up with patients to ensure equipment is meeting needs.

#### **Administration**

- Maintain electronic medical records describing all patient contacts and assessments.
- Complete Assistive Devices Program (ADP) program funding applications for patients.
- Work with booking coordinator to set appointment schedule.
- Provide written reports as required.
- Provide patient contact statistics as required for government reporting.

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### **Technology**

- Conduct maintenance and troubleshooting including updates, configurations, malware, anti-virus on demonstration equipment.
- As technology changes, the Vision Rehabilitation Specialist, High Technology must keep abreast of changing technology for the visually impaired and be prepared to learn the use of new devices independently.
- Participate in evaluation of vision aids equipment.
- Submit requests annually for new demonstration equipment.
- Act as a resource for other authorizers at Regional Assessment Centres and government staff sharing knowledge about devices and assessment protocols.

### **Teaching**

- Provide learning opportunities for optometry students, interns and residents by participating in annual low vision lab and providing instruction to interns who sit in on assessments.
- Explain role and technology aids to groups touring the clinic
- Promote vision rehabilitation at health expos, public education events and/or through workshops
- Share technology updates with authorizers at Regional Assessment Centres.

*\*All employees of the University are expected to follow University and departmental health and safety policy, procedures and work practices at all times. Employees are also responsible for the completion of all health and safety training, as assigned. Employees with staff supervision and/or management responsibilities will ensure that assigned staff abide by the above, and actively identify, assess and correct health and safety hazards, as required.*

### **Required Qualifications**

#### **Education**

- Post-secondary degree in Occupational Therapy, Vision Science, and/or certification as a Certified Low Vision Therapist, Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist or Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist
- Equivalent combination of education and experience will be considered
- Must be licensed/registered with relevant professional college if applicable
- As a condition of job offer, would be required to provide a satisfactory police information check (original document) completed in the last 3 months.

#### **Experience**

- Two years' experience working with the elderly and individuals with a disability
- Some experience working with individuals with vision loss. Experience can be a combination of work, volunteer positions, placements, internships and co-op positions
- Experience working in a health care environment
- Will be required to complete training and registration as an Assistive Devices Program (ADP) high technology authorizer
- ADP Authorizer status would be an asset.

#### **Knowledge/Skills/Abilities**

- Demonstrated competence in organizational skills and effective time management
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Able to teach and technical and non-technical skills to patients and adapt teaching method for individuals
- Demonstrated critical thinking skills/problem-solving skills
- Comfortable working collaboratively within an interdisciplinary team
- Ability to install, troubleshoot and maintain computer hardware and software

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- Knowledge of accessibility features & software for computers
- Able to demonstrate general computer configuration hardware and software basics and standard operating systems and built in accessibility features
- Knowledge of visual system, eye conditions and their impact is an asset
- Knowledge of optical & non-optical equipment and intervention strategies is an asset
- Knowledge of braille and braille adaptive devices is an asset
- Bilingualism (English/French) is an asset

### Nature and Scope

- **Contacts:** Clinic patients, family members, caregivers, teachers, and support persons, interdisciplinary team members, residents, interns, equipment vendors, VLRO, Ministry of Health & Long-term Care ADP staff, WWLHIN, other Regional Assessment Centres, Augmentative Communication Clinics, insurance companies, other agencies working with individuals with vision loss.
- **Level of Responsibility:** No direct reports. Provides learning opportunities for students.
- **Decision-Making Authority:** Will make recommendations for technology and environmental modifications for school, work and home so patients can meet vision goals. Will determine is eligible for a reading/writing device using ADP funding.
- **Physical and Sensory Demands:** Low to moderate demands for individual working in a clinic and office environment.
- **Working Environment:** Fast-paced clinical environment. Clinical and community based appointments involves interacting with patients and their family members/caregivers on a daily basis. Patients may be emotionally upset and reluctant to accept vision loss and the use of vision aids. Clinical appointments may run late. Local travel required.