An Introduction to Low Vision Rehabilitation: Screening for Vision Disability.

Instructor: Dr. Stephen G. Whittaker, Ph.D., OTR/L, CLVT

Suggested Audience:	This seminar is designed for any health care professional.
Course Descriptions:	This free one-hour course teaches how to screen for vision disability by observing performance of everyday tasks and using testing methods that do not require special equipment. A model of care is presented for medical or general rehabiliation settings that suggests where to refer clients if vision disability is suspected. It has been designed for all health care professionals in a setting where someone is available to provide perform a functional vision evaluation, initial interventions, and refer to the appropriate low vision or blindness rehabilitation professional in the area. The two-hour screening course includes pathogenesis of the more common causes of vision impairment. All of our presentations involve a fully accessible, interactive Power Point type presentation (*Storyline*), richly illustrated with graphic and video demonstration where you view the world through the eyes of people with different types of vision impairment. This course just covers screening. To learn how to perform a functional vision evaluation and common non-technical interventions that address vision disability, **The Introduction to Low Vision** series is recommended. **AOTA credits:** **Beginner level** : AOTA credits vary 1. **Online Course materials provided:** • ***A written summary of the signs of vision disability***

Note the objectives and schedule items that are gray are only available in the full introduction to low vision series

Learning Objectives:	**Course 1: Screening for Vision Disability (2 hrs, 0.2 AOTA CEU)** • Name six different types of visual impairments, common pathologies and performance signs associated with each type of impairment that may be used to screen for vision disability, • Describe how to avoid disability from normal age-related vision loss. • Describe signs and symptoms that require immediate referral to an optometrist or ophthalmologist. • Perform sighted-guide technique for aided mobility. Course 2: Evaluation and Interventions Part 1 (2 hrs, 0.2 AOTA CEU) • Evaluate 3 of 5 sensory (pre-cortical) vision impairments, impaired visual acuity, contrast sensitivity and central field loss and

- Choose "First Response" Interventions" for each of these impairments.

Course 3: Evaluation and Interventions Part II (2 hrs, 0.2 AOTA CEU)

- Evaluate 2 of 5 vision impairments, impaired visual fields, and eye movements.

- Choose "First Response" Interventions" for each of these impairments.

- Overview types of perceptual impairment and interventions including visual neglect.

Course 4: Beyond the First Response (1 hr, 0.1 AOTA CEU)

- Define "visual impairment", "low vision" and "blindness" in terms of eligibility for services that provide low vision rehabilitation.

- Name organizations and other professionals involved in low vision and blindness rehabilitation services to whom people with low vision should be referred,

- Describe expected outcomes from advanced low vision or blindness services.

- Describe how a therapist might obtain advanced certification as a low vision rehabilitation specialist.

SCHEDULE

Course 1:	Screening for Vision Disability (2 hrs.)
I	A collaborative model of service delivery.
II	Teaching other staff how to screen for vision disability and refer to you.
III	Six Sensory Impairments, realistic simulations and Performance Signs. Impaired Acuity Impaired Contrast Sensitivity Central Field Loss Peripheral Field Loss Oculomotor Problems Perceptual Impairment *(overview)*
IV	Normal Age-Related Vision Loss
V	Pathogenesis
VI	Sighted Guide Instructional Video

Course 2:	Evaluation and First Response Part 1 (2 hrs.)
I	Impaired Visual Acuity Evaluation Predicting Optimum Magnification Non-optical First response Interventions.
II	Impaired Contrast Sensitivity and Lighting Evaluation and interventions
III	Central Field Loss Evaluation First Response Interventions
IV	Workshop- real patients- real problems

Course 3	Evaluation and First Response Part 2 (2 hrs.)
I	Peripheral Field Loss & Visual Neglect Evaluation Beyond the First Response
II	Eye Movement Problems Evaluation First Response Interventions
III	Perceptual Problems Evaluation & Classification
IV	Workshop- real patients- real problems

Course 4	Beyond the First response: Service Delivery in the USA and Certification (1 hr)
I	Definitions and Eligibility for Services in the USA
II	Other Involved Professionals A Historical Perspective Inter-professional Issues
III	Description of Advanced Low Vision Practice
IV	Interview with two people with vision impairment.
V	Certification as Advanced Practitioner Certified Low Vision Therapist Specialty Certification for OT's

Following each course will be a test required for certification credit.
Retakes possible until an 80% correct pass criteria is reached.

About the presenter:

Steve Whittaker is a practicing occupational therapist and certified low vision therapist.   Steve has been involved in low vision rehabilitation for over 30 years as a researcher, educator and practitioner. He currently serves as member of the low vision expert committee of the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (www.ACVREP.com). He has numerous scientific publications, has received grants from The National Eye Institute, NASA and lectures internationally. With a doctorate in experimental psychology and post doctoral training in visual neurophysiology, Dr Whittaker began researching eye movements anomalies associated with macular degeneration at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (now Salus University) where he served as a researcher and educator for 20 years. He recently retires as an occupational therapist at MossRehab in the Philadelphia Area and co-authored *Low Vision Rehabilitation: A Practical Guide for Occupational Therapist* (Slack, 2016). *Search: Stephen G. Whittaker*

Limited Guarantee

For courses paid for by individuals.

The student may request a refund for this course for any reason. The full cost will be refunded.

This guarantee is limited to 30 days from the time of course registration. If a student completes and submits an examination the guarantee expires and no refund is possible.

The student is required to submit a course evaluation in order to receive a refund.

Note: Students may view any the lecture materials and supporting documentation prior to taking an examination.

For all enrollees…
A full refund for the individual will be provided for the following conditions:

1. If at any time the student finds the course unacceptable because it cannot be easily accessed due to disability, a full refund will be provided.

2. If the material is removed and can no longer be accessed within 3 months of course registration a full refund will be provided.

ADA Compliance

The slides and video are currently fully described by the narrative. A written script of the entire course is currently available by special request. The tests and narrative in document format are accessible for people using a screen reader- these will be emailed upon request. Please email the presenter (visionedseminars@verizon.net) for the latest update.

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* Disclosure of potential conflict of interest: Stephen Whittaker may receive royalties from one assessment instrument (the wands) and a publication described in this course. With all publications and instruments that produce royalties to Dr. Whittaker, alternative available assessment techniques and instruments have been presented.