Ten tips to promote eye health for people with dementia Supporting people with sight loss

Action on Dementia

## Ten tips to promote eye health for people with dementia

These tips aim to help you and your family/carers feel more confident about accessing eye care services.

- **1** Ensure you have a sight test every two years, unless advised otherwise by an optometrist.
- 2 If you or your family/carer feel a traditional letter chart is unsuitable, don't worry, optometrists have alternative ways to examine your vision.
- 3 When arranging appointments tell the optometrist you or the person you support has dementia.
- 4 Some optometrists will visit people in their own home.
- 5 Take a list of medications to eye appointments as some may affect your vision.
- 6 Advise your optometrist of any recent changes in behaviour which may indicate undetected sight loss such as a disinterest in hobbies, falls or persistently cleaning glasses.
- 7 Ask your optometrist to recommend the most appropriate glasses for you.
- 8 Think about the 3 C's correct, clean and current glasses.
- **9** Tell your optometrist if glasses are uncomfortable.
- **10** You may be entitled to financial support towards the cost of glasses or a sight test. All sight tests in Scotland are free.

Download further information from our dementia and sight loss leaflet and complete the checklist before your next sight test at: rnib.org.uk/aboutdementia

RNIB Helpline: 0303 123 9999

rnib.org.uk

Alzheimer Scotland Helpline: 0808 808 3000

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