Early Intervention Mobile Vision Clinic Events

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What: We can perform basic vision exams, fit eyeglasses, and perform more detailed Functional Vision Evaluations for issues that impact learning, development, activities of daily living, or work. We intend to improve access to eye care in communities both rural and urban. This flier describes our services for Early Intervention Programs, ages 3 to 5. For this age group we usually set up in an appropriately sized room. We carry the tools and techniques to examine any child in need, including non-verbal, special needs, and low vision. The emphasis of our work is functional vision assessments for eyeglasses, low vision, or intervention consultation to an interdisciplinary team. We make referrals to specialty clinics if there are eye health or other issues that cannot be evaluated or treated through our mobile clinic.

When: We are currently scheduling mobile vision events. We can visit schools, clinics, community centers, churches, or health fairs. These trips can be for one or more days.

Who: For an early intervention program we concentrate on ages 3 to Pre Kindergarten. Our setup can provide services for children up to 18 years old, but we need to be alerted if older children are expected so we can plan accordingly.

Our Team: At minimum our attending team will consist of one optometrist and one staff (over 18). Additional staff/volunteers attend when available and/or needed.

How: The flow generally follows these steps

Preplanning: We establish an appropriate Memorandum of Understanding document with the host of the Mobile Vision Clinic event. We coordinate with the host prior to the trip to determine the best plan for conducting the event. All early intervention events involve scheduling and parental completion of paperwork prior to their appointment (no walk-in availability). Our Patient Care Coordinators assist parents in getting ready for their appointment.

Event: The host provides a space that can accommodate the eye exam equipment. Usually this is a room of at least 150 square feet. It needs to be a dedicated space for the event, rather than shared with other activities. We arrive in the morning and it takes about 1 hour to set up. We have previously “triaged” the children we will see to make sure each child is appropriate for our clinic, has insurance
eligibility, and we know what services (basic eye exam or functional consultation) is needed. The appropriate amount of time is put on the schedule, most appointments will be 30 minutes in length. While we prefer parents/guardians to attend the evaluation, if the paperwork and consents are in place we can see a child that has been dropped off for their preschool program for the day. A school staff person needs to facilitate students to and from their appointments. Other team members are welcome to attend. If a child needs eyeglasses they can choose from a selection that includes the Medicaid eligible frame/lens selection. We pack up and head home at the end of the event. We stay overnight in the community for multi day events.

Followup: With functional vision issues and eyeglasses for young children, there is typically a need for follow up once or twice in the year. Therefore, we try to schedule at least two events per year at each location. While a first visit may only allow for some basic services, at a follow up we can see a child for next level care and consultation.

Our Database: Data is securely stored digitally according to HIPAA standards. Contact information is provided to the patient/family if they have any questions or concerns once we have left the event. Our EYE Toolbox provides a patient/parent/professional portal for information and collaboration.

COST: This mobile vision clinic will see patients with Apple Health / Medicaid without any fees for services. Children under 18 are eligible for free eyeglasses. We have resources to serve uninsured patients. For individuals with private health insurance, there may be some fees involved including possible copays, coinsurance, and deductibles. Private pay is an option also.

SCHEDULING: We will consider any location in WA State. Step one in scheduling a mobile vision clinic event is to contact Dr. Alan Pearson, Executive Director of the Near Vision Institute at: pearson@nviglobal.org (425)-269-3169 (leave a message with contact details and I will return your call)

Near Vision Institute: is a non-profit corporation (501c3 pending) in WA State that was formed in 2021 to facilitate vision screenings and eye exams through our EYE See Clinics, and technology development for remote interventions for learning and development related vision dysfunctions. More information for each of these divisions can be found at the following websites:

Near Vision Institute: www.NVI.global
EYE See Clinic: www.EYESeeClinic.org

NOTE: For people willing to travel to Bellevue Washington eye exams, Functional Vision Evaluations, and therapy services are currently available year round.