

Caring for the Driver with Vision Loss In the USA: An Optometrist's Perspective

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The identification, evaluation, treatment and success of individuals with vision loss whose goal includes driving require a multi-faceted clinical approach. In the USA, driving with vision loss is allowed in the vast majority of states, yet there is no uniformity across the nation. Factors such as geographical location and licensure legislation impact predicted outcomes and potential for success. Optometrists specializing in vision rehabilitation in the USA are routinely involved in the process of pursuing driver's licensure when vision loss is involved as an important medical, legal and informational resource for patients and stakeholders. This presentation provides an overview of relevant clinical considerations taken into account by the optometrist when treating individuals with vision loss who wish to pursue licensure and driving in the USA. Included is a review of available treatment options, including what is prescribed, what is recommended and what is offered to assist our patients in meeting the goal of licensure for safe and legal driving in the states. Highlighted is treating the patient with bioptic telescopic systems and the path to achieving licensure with the use of a bioptic telescope. In addition, a discussion of counseling and medico-legal issues involving the patient, provider and other stakeholders is included.