

NECO Center for Eye Care Low Vision Clinic at Perkins

We are looking forward to your visit to our clinic! Please carefully review the information contained in this packet prior to your appointment and send the following information to LowVision@Perkins.org at least two business days prior to the appointment date:

- **Insurance Referral – this is not a routine eye exam** and often requires a referral from your Primary Care Physician or insurance company. In order to bill your insurance, we must have a referral number prior to your appointment. Your doctor may call us at the number 617-972-7296, or it may be faxed to us at 617-972-7297. **If we have not received this by the day of the appointment, you will be responsible for full payment.** We accept **cash, check and credit cards** (Visa, Discover, Mastercard, American Express)
- **Copies of the latest eye reports, medical records (incl. neuropsychology), available educational reports** (including I.E.P., OT, PT, Speech, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Orientation and Mobility, etc)
- **If a school or agency is paying for the exam**, we must have a signed letter from the school/agency representative stating their responsibility and a billing address. **This must be received prior to the day of your appointment.**
- Fill out the pre-appointment form here: <https://shorturl.at/bozH8>

Please bring with you to the appointment:

- **Medical Insurance Card** – please bring this with you to the appointment as we will need to make a copy when you arrive.
- **All eyeglasses and low vision devices used** – this helps us understand what has or has not been helpful in the past and enables us to compare these devices with new ones.
- **Favorite Toys/Examples of School Work** – having familiar objects can help make this a positive experience. Examples of school books, homework, or worksheets will help us identify the current size of print/symbols used and to recommend the most appropriate device(s).
- **Other Professionals or Caregivers**– this is a collaborative, team effort! Having other professionals or caregivers attend helps us to develop appropriate recommendations that address everyone’s questions.

What Do We Do?

The New England College of Optometry (NECO) and Perkins School for the Blind combine the educational expertise from Perkins and the clinical expertise from NECO Center for Eye Care to provide eye care for individuals throughout New England. Using a collaborative approach, both educators and optometrist's work side by side during the clinical examination to determine the current level of visual functioning so as to prescribe devices (as needed), develop appropriate therapies, and offer education/rehabilitation recommendations.

While the majority of our patients are pre-school and school age children with a visual impairment and multiple needs or disabilities, we also see a wide variety of people of all ages in the clinic, including adults with visual impairments and/or multiple physical/cognitive disabilities.

How is this different from a regular eye exam?

As you may already know, our team of specialists can provide a wide range of eye care services that includes:

- **Clinical Functional Vision Examination** – incorporating many components of a comprehensive eye exam, this assessment reviews medical/educational history and seeks to determine how a person uses their vision throughout the day. This can include the need for spectacles or low vision devices and can occur whenever there is a change in visual behavior or at coordinated times with the education/rehabilitation team. This type of exam can often provide more information about their visual functioning than has been included on a regular eye report particularly if “blind” or “untestable” is the only description of visual ability listed.
- **Comprehensive Eye Exam** – this starts with a review of medical/education/rehabilitation history and can evaluate binocular vision; evaluate exterior and interior eye health (sometimes using dilating drops); and determine the need for spectacles. This type of exam can often provide more information about their visual function than what is included on a regular eye report, particularly if “blind” or “untestable” is the only listed description of visual ability.
- **Visual Field Examination** - this highly specialized exam seeks to measure the peripheral visual fields (the area in which a person can see objects simultaneously) of an individual using a variety of instruments and techniques. This requires a comprehensive eye exam within the last year.

Who Will Be There?

Because we use a collaborative approach to the exam and are a teaching clinic for NECO Center for Eye Care, you will meet several professionals during your visit. We encourage any or all of the patient's education or rehabilitation team to attend an examination. This would include parents, classroom teachers, teachers of the visually impaired, orientation and mobility specialists, rehabilitation teachers, or other special service providers. When you arrive you will probably be greeted by the clinic administrative assistant or the clinic coordinator.

Here is some information about our staff:

- **Dr. Nicole Ross, OD, FAAO** is a graduate of the New England College of Optometry. She has distinguished herself by completing a residency in vision rehabilitation at Ohio State University and clinical fellowship at the Wilmer Eye Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
- **Dr. Jem Martin, OD, FAAO** is a graduate of the New England College of Optometry. They then completed the Vision Rehabilitation with an emphasis in Low Vision at NECO, before staying on as faculty at NECO.
- **Jax Alcantara** is our clinic's Office Manager, and now lives in Brighton after having moved from Arizona. He is currently finishing his undergraduate degree, and has ample administrative experience in various settings, most recently in the medical fields of optometry and orthodontics. He is responsible for coordinating general office functions for the clinic, is the main contact for patient scheduling and correspondence, and is available for all inquiries at (617) 972-7296 or Jacob.Alcantara@perkins.org.

Directions and Parking Information can be found on the next 2 pages

For more information about us and downloadable documents, go to:

<http://bit.ly/NECOPerkins>



DIRECTIONS

NECO Center for Eye Care Low Vision Clinic at Perkins

Once on Campus: the Hilton Building is the first “Right” after you enter the main gate from North Beacon Street. Continue past the building around the circle drive and you will find a small 4 car parking lot on your right (there are designated spots for the clinic). Once inside the Hilton Building, take the elevator to Ground Level “G”, follow the hallway to your left.

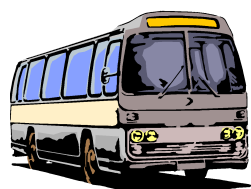
STORROW DRIVE FROM BOSTON: Take Storrow Drive towards Newton. It turns into Soldiers Field Road, (past Harvard Field), pass WBZ TV/Radio on left, stay on Soldiers Field Road - go under bridge, pass Staples & IHOP on left. Stay in the right-hand lane. Exit right onto North Beacon Street (Route 20). Go through two sets of lights and turn left at the school entrance directly off of North Beacon Street.

MASS. TURNPIKE FROM BOSTON: Mass. Pike to exit 17. Turn right toward Watertown Square (you’re now on Galen St.). Continue on Galen Street through two sets of lights. Stay in the right-hand lane, cross over the Charles River. Bear right onto North Beacon (keep HESS gas station on your **left** – Route 20). Go through one set of lights. Turn right into the main entrance.

FROM ROUTE 128: Take 128 to Mass. Pike. Mass. Pike East to Exit 17. At the top of the ramp, move into the left-hand lane. Cross back over the Mass. Pike. Immediately move into the right-hand lane. Stay right (you're now on Galen St.) and follow signs to Watertown. Continue through two sets of lights. Stay in the right-hand lane, cross over the Charles River. Bear right onto North Beacon (keep HESS gas station on your left - Route 20). Go through one set of lights. Turn right at the school campus.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FROM BOSTON:

- Red Line to Harvard, take #71 bus to Watertown Square, walk up North Beacon Street to Perkins.
- Red Line to Central Square, take #70 bus to Beechwood Ave, which is off of Arsenal Street. Walk one block up to North Beacon Street to Perkins.
- Green line to Copley, express bus to Watertown Square, cross bridge; walk up North Beacon Street to Perkins.



NECO Center for Eye Care
Low Vision Clinic at Perkins
175 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02472



PARKING

NECO Center for Eye Care Low Vision Clinic at Perkins

We have reserved parking for clinic patients only directly across from the Hilton Building (where the clinic is located).

- Enter the campus directly from North Beacon Street. (entrance closest to Beechwood St.)
- Follow the road to the right passing in front of the Hilton Building. You may stop here temporarily if you need to unload passengers or use the wheelchair ramp.
- Continue around the small circular drive until you are directly opposite the Hilton Building beside Hallowell House.
- Two clinic parking spaces and two handicapped spaces will be on your right.
- Hilton Building and Hallowell house are highlighted in yellow on the map below

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at: 617-972-7296



Perkins campus

175 North Beacon Street
 Watertown, MA 02472
 617-924-3434
 Perkins.org

Map key

- General parking
- Path
- Fence