

Policy statement:	Vision Therapy/Vision Training/Behavioural Optometry
Status:	Not Funded

M&SECGGs do not fund provision of vision therapy, behavioural optometry or vision training, including for the following conditions.

- exotropia (eye deviates outward)
- nystagmus (involuntary movement of the eyeballs)
- dyslexia and other learning and reading disabilities
- learning disability or language disorder including developmental delay

If the cause of the condition is orthoptic e.g amblyopia (lazy eye), patients should be assessed and treated with orthoptic treatment by Orthoptists as part of commissioned services within the CCGs.

Vision therapy may also be referred to as eye exercise therapy, visual therapy, visual training, vision training, or optometric vision therapy. Vision therapy may include elements of a wide range of optometric treatment modalities, with the therapeutic goal of correcting or improving specific dysfunctions of the vision system. This may include the use of special lenses, prisms, filters, and other appropriate materials, methods, equipment, and procedures, including eye exercises and behavioural modalities that are used for eye movement and fixation training to eliminate or improve conditions.

Vision therapy has been assessed as a Low Clinical Priority by the CCGs and will not be funded unless there are **exceptional clinical circumstances**.

Funding for patients not meeting the above criteria will only be granted in clinically exceptional circumstances.

Applications for funding in such circumstances should be made to the Exceptional Case Team but should only be made where the patient demonstrates clinical exceptionality.

Further information on applying for funding in exceptional clinical circumstances can be found on the CCGs' website.