

Guidelines for distribution of free spectacles for near work to old persons suffering from presbyopia under the National Programme for Control of Blindness during the 12th Five Year Plan

National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) was launched in the year 1976 as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme with the goal of reducing the prevalence of blindness to 0.3% by 2020. Rapid Survey on Avoidable Blindness conducted under NPCB during 2006-07 showed reduction in the prevalence of blindness from 1.1% (2001-02) to 1% (2006-07). A provision of Rs.2506.90 crore has been approved by the Government for implementation of the NPCB during the 12th Five Year Plan for activities upto the district and below hospitals.

2. In order to extend the area of coverage of eye care services, it has been approved to distribute free spectacles for near work to old persons suffering from presbyopia under NPCB as a new initiative during the 12th Five Year Plan.

Objective of the scheme

3. The objectives of the Scheme are as follows:
- a) To further extend eye care services to elderly people.
 - b) To take care of elderly people in weaker section of the society.

Criterion for selection and distribution of beneficiary under the scheme

4. Criterion for selection of beneficiary and distribution under the scheme is given below:
- i. Elderly people of the age of 45 years & above and suffering from presbyopia are eligible for free spectacles on the prescription of Government Eye Specialist.
 - ii. The patients of the age of 45 years and above will be screened for the presbyopic correction in (i) District Hospitals; (ii) Medical Colleges; (iii) and RIOs and any other Government Hospitals.
 - iii. Preference will be given to the persons below poverty line.
 - iv. The amount of assistance is upto Rs.100 per presbyopic spectacles.
 - v. The procurement of the spectacles will be made by the respective State/District Health Society by following proper procurement procedures similar to the purchase procedures being followed for purchase of Spectacles for school children.
