Eye Conditions Snippet

**Condition Name:** Aniridia

**Description:** Aniridia is a congenital condition describing the failure of the iris to develop. If the iris partially develops then it is called partial Aniridia. The iris dilates and contracts the pupil controlling the amount of light entering the eye. It is also responsible for the color of the eye. Aniridia usually affects both eyes, although the degree may vary. Other parts of the eye that can be affected are the cornea and lens. As well, the pressure inside the eye can be higher leading to glaucoma. Nystagmus (rapid involuntary eye movement) and strabismus (squinting) are often present with aniridia. Aniridia is not progressive, however it is often associated with syndromes involving other health issues.

**Effects on Vision:** Eyes are permanently dilated and do not react to light. This reduces the focal ability of the lens causing blurring. It also results in over-sensitivity to light (photophobia) causing glare on sunny days. Glasses can increase focal ability and reduce glare.

**Educational implications:** Environmental considerations are important due to oversensitivity to light. In particular, preferential seating, lighting, contrast and magnification should be considered. Concept and skill development may be initially delayed, however, with proper adaptations and accommodations, the student should catch up. Low vision aids may assist the student for near and far point viewing. Students typically do not have difficulties moving around.