Condition Name: Aphakia

Description: Aphakia is the absence of the lens of the eye. Aphakia is most often associated with the surgical removal of a cataract but children may be born with congenital aphakia.

Effects on Vision: Without the lens, the eye cannot adjust its focus for seeing at different distances. Surgery is required. In cataract surgery, an artificial lens is inserted to replace the lens removed. For very young children a contact or artificial lens implant can be very difficult. If the lens is not implanted, children will need to wear thick glasses to achieve a clear image. On-going surgeries and multiple operations may be necessary.

Educational implications: Individuals with aphakia should be encouraged to wear their glasses and contact lenses all the time. A Teacher of the Visually impaired will be able to assess and offer educational strategies in the classroom for students. For instance, students will benefit from adequate, but not excessive, lighting and high-contrast reading materials. Individuals should never look directly at light sources and glare may be an issue. An Orientation and Mobility instructor may be required for navigation in new and unfamiliar environments.