**Condition Name:** Neurofibromatosis

**Description:** There are two forms of neurofibromatosis. The most common is peripheral neurofibromatosis (NF1). The other is central neurofibromatosis (NF2). It is a genetic condition. NF1 is characterized by optic nerve or chiasm glioma which is a benign tumor on these nerve tissues and glaucoma, which is an increase in the pressure inside the eye. NF2 is characterized by optic nerve or chiasm meningioma, which is a benign tumor of the protective layer covering the nerve tissue and cataracts.

**Effects on Vision:** In both NF1 and NF2 the tumors may press against the nerve and stop the transfer of signals from the eye to the brain. This will cause blurred vision and perhaps pain in the eye. Glaucoma also causes pain. Due to the pressure on the optic nerve glaucoma will cause blurred vision starting on the periphery and progressing to the center. Cataracts cause blurred vision as the lenses become cloudy.

**Educational implications:** For glaucoma, visual acuity may not be affected until the advanced stages however visual fields will be affected. Reduced peripheral vision may affect mobility. For cataracts, blurred and hazy vision reduces acuity which affects both near and far point viewing. Text enlargement may assist with reading. Students may have difficulty with mobility due to the visual impairments caused by neurofibromatosis.