Eye Conditions Snippet

**Condition Name:** Nystagmus

**Description:** Nystagmus is the involuntary rhythmic movement of the eyes from side to side or up and down. Nystagmus can occur independently or in conjunction with another eye condition or disease. It is often caused by abnormal function in the areas of the brain that control eye movements. Nystagmus is often present at birth but can occur later in life due to disease or injury.

**Effects on Vision:** The severity of Nystagmus on vision will vary from student to student. The cause of the Nystagmus will be investigated to rule out any other serious conditions. At this time, Nystagmus cannot be cured. Students will often tilt their head in a certain way to find a spot in which the involuntary movement of the eyes lessens. This is known as a “null spot” and it often means the student's vision will improve. The effects of the Nystagmus is worse for distance than near.

**Educational implications:** Students with Nystagmus will often require environment support with lighting. Also color contrast, text and other magnification tools will often be quite helpful. It is important to be aware that a student with Nystagmus will often suffer from visual fatigue especially when expected to do a lot of reading. Stress also affects the student and has been seen to increase the involuntary movement of the eyes. Tasks such as copying from the board will be difficult as it involves frequent changes of focus, providing student with own copy of work to be copied would be preferable.