Visual Inattention/Neglect (Strategies to Help Individuals)

Stroke or brain injury can affect a person’s ability to see or attend to one-half of his visual field. Family and caregivers can help a person with visual problems.

Strategies to improve visual awareness during daily activities include:

1. Sit on patient’s affected (L/R) side when talking, and ask friends/visitors to do so when visiting.

2. Encourage patient to attend to his/her affected (L/R) side with all activities.

3. Place the items patient needs on his/her affected (L/R) side, as well as on the opposite side during self-care, bathing, dressing, and eating (to increase environmental scanning).

4. Encourage the patient to scan the room:
   • You or the patient can point out various things around the room.
   • Have the patient search for numbers or letters posted in the room (for example, post large, hand-lettered sheets with “1 2 3…” or “A B C …”).
   • Request the patient to look to the affected (L/R) side every 10 minutes.
   • Place special pictures on the affected (L/R) side.