



This standard of practice is to support the PSW in providing safe, respectful, and effective personal care to the public population in a dignified and ethical approach. Standards of Practice outline the expectations of the PSW and their responsibility in the delivery of care.

Visual Impairment - When one or more parts of the eye or brain that are needed to process images become diseased or damaged, severe, or total loss of vision can occur. Person(s) with complete loss of vision or very limited vision need encouragement for independence and quality of life.

A Personal Support Worker can perform the following visual assistance:

- Anytime a PSW is going to assist the person(s) with a procedure of any type, the PSW will need to explain to them what they are about to do.
- Allow the person(s) to assist as much as possible.
- Always indicate your presence by speaking to the person(s) when entering or leaving the room.
- Keep doors closed or wide open, flush with the wall, to prevent accidents.
- Do not rearrange furniture or the person(s) belongings without letting the person(s) know of the changes.
- When serving food to the person(s), always explain what you are serving and place the food in the manner of the numbers on a clock. Tell them the corn is at 3 o'clock, etc.
- Always allow the person(s) to take your arm when walking.
- Always tell the person(s) where the phone, furniture and household items are at. Read to the person(s) if the person(s) so desires.
- Always offer encouragement and praise as this promotes the feeling of independence but never infantilize the person.

PSW – Personal Support Worker

RN/RPN – Registered Nurse/ Registered Practical Nurse

RHPA – Regulated Health Professions Act

Resources - Sheila A. Sorrentino, PhD, RN, Leighann Remmert, MS, RN and Mary J. Wilk, RN, GNC(C), BA, BScN, MN, Mosby's Canadian Textbook for the Support Worker, 3rd Edition