

Policy title	Coloured overlays, filters or lenses for reading difficulty V1.1
Policy position	Intervention Not Normally Funded
Date of CCG recommendation	October 2020

The use of coloured overlays, tinted lenses and filters has been suggested to treat visual reading difficulties including slow or inaccurate reading. The evidence does not support the effectiveness of tinted lenses and filters for patients due to the low quality of the available studies, variability in techniques in the trials, and the largely negative results.

Due to the lack of evidence of clinical effectiveness, the provision of tinted or coloured overlays, filters or lenses (Irlen-lens) for patients with reading difficulties is **not normally funded**.

Rationale¹

Learning difficulties, including reading difficulties, are commonly diagnosed in children. Early recognition and referral to qualified educational professionals for evidence-based evaluations and treatments is advised to achieve the best possible outcome. Most experts believe that dyslexia is a language-based disorder. Vision problems can interfere with the process of learning, however, vision problems are not the cause of primary dyslexia or learning difficulties.

NOTE:

- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance e.g. from NICE
- Where a patient does not meet the policy criteria or the intervention is not normally funded by the NHS, an application for clinical exceptionality can be considered via the ICB's Individual Funding Request (IFR) Policy and Process

Clinical coding:

There is no OPCS code to identify coloured lenses.

Key words: Coloured, tinted, overlays, filters, lenses, Irlen-lenses, reading difficulty, specific reading difficulty, dyslexia.

¹ American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Academy of Paediatrics Joint Statement: Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia, and Vision - Reaffirmed (2014)