



BPSU Surveillance of Childhood Visual Impairment and Blindness in UK children *British Childhood Visual Impairment and Blindness Study 2 (BCVIS2)* **Commences October 2015**

(Short Study Name: Visual Impairment and Blindness)

Most children living in the UK with visual impairment or blindness are likely to be affected from birth or infancy and will experience a significant lifelong impact on their development, education, social and emotional wellbeing. BCVIS2 will determine the incidence, causes, mode/context of detection, associated factors, management and short term health and social outcomes of all-cause childhood visual disability. All children aged ≤ 18 years diagnosed during a 13 month period as being **severely visually impaired or blind** will be identified through their clinicians using national active surveillance independently but concurrently through the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit and the British Ophthalmological Surveillance Unit (BOSU). There will be simultaneous identification of those children with visual impairment (i.e. less severe impairment) through BOSU as these children are unlikely to be seen by a paediatrician. The merged dataset will then encompass the full spectrum of visual disability

It is hoped that the findings from this study will inform planning of prevention and treatment strategies and targeting of screening, 'map' clinical and public health services involved in detection and management thereby informing the commissioning and delivery of NHS services, and present an evidence base on the sociodemographic variations in childhood visual disability to inform national public health policies.

Duration: *BPSU surveillance will be undertaken for 13 months, commencing in October 2015 with a 12 month follow-up.*

Case definition: Please report any child or young person (aged ≤ 18 years) newly diagnosed as being severely visually impaired or blind (SVI/BL) due to any disorder in the UK (excluding ROI).

This includes any child or young person:

- with corrected distance acuity worse than 6/60 Snellen or LogMAR 1.0 in the better eye **OR**
- is eligible for certification to the national registers of sight impairment **OR**
- with clinical features consistent with SVI/BL **OR**
- assessed as having special educational needs due to SVI/BL

Website: www.rcpch.ac.uk/bpsu/BCVIS2

Funding: Fight for Sight, 9-13 Fenchurch Buildings, Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 5HR

Ethical approval: This study has been approved by NRES Committee – London – Bloomsbury (REC reference: 14/LO/1809; IRAS project ID: 161997) and has been granted Section 251 HRA-CAG permission (CAG Reference: 14/CAG/1028).

Further information: If you would like any advice regarding the eligibility of a particular case for inclusion in the study please contact:

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