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Prevent Blindness Declares February as Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Low Vision Awareness Month to Educate Public on the Eye Disease and Available Support Programs

-- Prevent Blindness Provides a Wealth of Free Educational Resources on AMD, One of the Leading Causes of Vision Loss, and Materials on Low Vision, and Low Vision Services --

CHICAGO (Jan. 29, 2025) – [Prevent Blindness](#), the nation’s leading eye health and safety nonprofit organization, has once again declared February as Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Low Vision Awareness Month.

AMD is an eye disease that impairs central vision and may appear in two forms, wet AMD and dry AMD. A recent study, “[The Prevalence of Age-Related Macular Degeneration in the United States In 2019](#)” developed using data within Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s [Vision and Eye Health Surveillance System \(VEHSS\)](#), estimated that 19.83 million Americans were living with some form of AMD. AMD can cause low vision. Low vision is visual impairment that cannot be corrected with prescription lenses, medication or surgery.

To help educate the public, patients and their care partners, and allied health professionals, Prevent Blindness offers a variety of free educational resources including expert-approved [fact sheets](#) and [social media graphics](#) in English and Spanish, and dedicated webpages. Patients and care partners are encouraged to create and download a free guide using the Prevent Blindness [AMD GuideMe](#) app. It provides a customized overview of the disease along with a tailored resource list and suggested steps to help save sight from AMD.

Dedicated episodes in the [Prevent Blindness Focus on Eye Health Expert Series](#) are also available at no cost including:

- “[Age-related Macular Degeneration \(AMD\) and Low Vision](#),” featuring W. Lloyd Clark, MD, Palmetto Retinal Center, and Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.
- “[Low Vision](#),” featuring R. Tracy Williams, OD, FAAO, Executive Director at Spectrios Institute for Low Vision, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, Loyola University and Adjunct Professor, Illinois College of Optometry. Dr. Williams is also a former Prevent Blindness Board of Directors member.

- “[Vision Impairment and Mental Wellness](#),” with AMD patient Dr. Connie Hills, psychologist, consultant and speaker.

Geographic Atrophy (GA), an advanced form of dry AMD affects around 20 percent of all people with AMD, according to the [Cleveland Clinic](#). Prevent Blindness provides resources that include a downloadable [fact sheet](#) and a series of shareable social media graphics in English and Spanish, and [a dedicated webpage](#). These resources are supported by funding from [Apellis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.](#) GA episodes in the Focus on Eye Health Expert Series include:

- “[Advancements in Treatments for Geographic Atrophy](#),” featuring Rajeev S. Ramchandran, MD, MBA, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Flaum Eye Institute, University of Rochester Medical Center, and volunteer member of the Prevent Blindness Public Health and Policy Committee.
- “[Geographic Atrophy and Patient Support](#),” featuring Sherry Williams, [Prevent Blindness Ohio](#) past president and CEO, sharing her story as a care partner for her mother diagnosed with GA.
- “[Geographic Atrophy](#),” featuring Janet S. Sunness, MD, Medical Director of the Richard E. Hoover Low Vision Rehabilitation Services at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center.

To view these and other informative videos, the public and professionals are encouraged to subscribe to the Prevent Blindness YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@PreventBlindnessNational>.

Finally, Prevent Blindness offers the comprehensive resource, “[Living Well With Low Vision](#).” One of the most visited Prevent Blindness websites, Living Well With Low Vision provides a robust variety of content such as low vision resource directories, a Self-help Guide to Non-visual Skills, the ABCs of Caring for the Visually Impaired, a listing of Vision Rehabilitation Resources for Eyecare Professionals, and much more. This resource is supported by grants from [Alexion](#), [Amgen](#), [Genentech](#), and [Johnson & Johnson](#).

“The impact of retinal eye diseases, such as AMD, and low vision affects not only patients but their care partners and families as well,” said Jeff Todd, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness. “By providing trusted informative resources that help save sight from advancing eye disease and conditions like AMD, and by helping to connect patients to eyecare, and assisting those who are already experiencing vision loss, we continue our essential 117-year mission to serve as the patient’s partner in eye health.”

For more information on AMD, please visit [PreventBlindness.org/amd](https://www.preventblindness.org/amd). For information on geographic atrophy, please visit [PreventBlindness.org/geographic-atrophy](https://www.preventblindness.org/geographic-atrophy). And, for more information on Living Well With Low Vision, or other general eye health information, please visit [lowvision.PreventBlindness.org/](https://www.preventblindness.org/lowvision).

For more information on “The Prevalence of Age-Related Macular Degeneration in the United States In 2019” study or the VEHSS, visit [PreventBlindness.org/amd-prevalence-vehss](https://www.preventblindness.org/amd-prevalence-vehss).

About Prevent Blindness

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, Prevent Blindness is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, visit us at [PreventBlindness.org](https://www.preventblindness.org), and follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), [LinkedIn](#), [TikTok](#), and [YouTube](#).

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