Drug related definitions:

A. Drug actions (also called drug use) are the physical, psychological, and/or emotional effects that are the reasons for taking the drug. For instance, an antihistamine is supposed to have a drug action of drying the sinus mucus. Factors that may cause variations in the power of the drug action include: weight, sex, disease, route of administration.

B. Drug reactions (also called side effects) occur when a patient experiences adverse symptoms when they take a drug. These reactions can usually be predicted from the clinical trials of the drug. Sometimes patients are allergic to drugs, having an allergy-like attack upon administration. Another kind of drug reaction is anaphylactic shock, edema, and loss of consciousness.

C. Drug effects evolve when either a tolerance is built up to the drug or accumulation of the drug in the tissues causes toxicity.

D. Drug addictions occur when the patient becomes physically or mentally reliant on the drug for health. Adverse physical reactions usually occur if the drug is withdrawn or if tolerance has built and more of the drug is not taken.

E. Drug administration means the route in which the drug is introduced to the body. The major ways of administering drugs are: oral, injections (subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, intradermal).

F. Ophthalmic drugs are those drugs given to act upon ophthalmic conditions. The most common of which are drugs whose actions are to dilate the iris muscle to enlarge the pupil, to assist in the treatment of glaucoma, eye infections, and other common eye problems. [A link to a list of several of these medications is provided on the WIA 3 Activity Page.]

G. Systemic drugs with ocular reactions refer to those drugs given for systemic (other than ophthalmic) conditions that cause ophthalmic reactions. Many drugs do have ocular reactions that may compound functional implications and decrease your client’s/student’s visual performance. This will be unrelated to the eye condition.