

Camden & Islington Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service

The English National Programme for Sight Threatening Diabetic Retinopathy requires patients with diabetes to be screened by a systematic screening programme which meets all the requirements of the National Screening Committee (NSC) www.nscretinopathy.org.uk. To meet this requirement the existing service has been upgraded and expanded to use digital retinal photography and will cover all Camden and Islington GP practices.

How will the service work?

The service is a joint development with contributions from Camden and Islington PCTs, the Whittington, Royal Free and UCL hospitals and local optometrists. The screening office will be based at the Whittington Hospital and managed by the same team who ran the previous service.

Patient data will be sent by the GP practices electronically on a regular basis to the screening centre to keep the register up to date. In between electronic updates recruitment/consent forms can be printed from this site and sent to the screening office. We would also ask practices to inform us if a patient dies or moves away or changes address.

Please **DO NOT** send patients directly to an optometrist. Patients must be recruited onto the data base through the screening office. If patients are not on the database there is a real danger that their images will go astray

Once a year the patient will be sent a screening invitation and a list of participating screening centres. The patient can then select a convenient centre and make an appointment for retinal photography. Patients can only attend approved centres which will comprise six community optometrists and three hospital locations. All screening images will be stored centrally and a proportion double checked for quality assurance according to NSC standards.

- The National Programme information leaflet will be sent with the screening invitation to each patient
- The results of examinations will be sent to the patient, the patient's GP, and the patient's diabetologist, if applicable.
- Pregnant women with diabetes need to have their eyes checked more frequently
- If a patient needs to be referred to the Hospital Eye Service an appointment will be arranged at a local Ophthalmology department

The NSC have identified groups of patients who will be excluded from screening

- Patients under the care of a consultant ophthalmologist (medical retinal) need to be on the screening register but will not be called for screening. Ophthalmology departments will be required to provide screening data to the programme by 2008

- **Patients who do not give their consent to screening. The patient needs to opt out in writing but be given the chance to opt in each year. Patient identifiable data should not be sent to the screening office for these patients**
- **A patient who is unsuitable for treatment due ,for example, to a terminal illness**
- **Patients who are not eligible for NHS treatment**
- **Patients who have no perception of light in either eye**
- **Patients who have a mental or physical disability which makes it impossible to follow instructions and sit at the camera**

In line with national recommendations there will no longer be a domiciliary service. Housebound patients can arrange to have transport so that they can attend a screening clinic at one of the acute hospital trusts

For further information contact a member of screening office team on 020 7288 3173