

Email title: **Delays to the Diabetic Eye Screening Programme**

Dear colleague

Please be advised that the Scottish Diabetic Eye Screening Programme is continuing to experience delays in *some* patients receiving their screening appointment. This is due to the pause in the programme during the COVID-19 lockdown and the need to comply with PPE regulations in clinics.

Who will experience delays?

This delay will only affect patients at no or low risk of sight loss. If a patient's last 2 screening results found no retinopathy, they'll usually only need to be screened every 2 years, rather than every year. All patients with medium or high risk of sight loss are being prioritised.

How you can help

It's important for patients to remain symptom aware while they wait for their appointment. Please encourage them to speak to their optometrist if they notice any changes to their sight.

Please reassure patients that they will receive invitations to their appointments as local programmes work to prioritise patients. You can signpost them to NHS inform to find out more about the signs and symptoms of diabetic retinopathy www.nhsinform.scot/desscreening. They'll also find information there on how to reduce the risk of diabetic retinopathy or help prevent it from getting worse.

Information for professionals can be found at www.publichealthscotland.scot/des

If you have any questions, please email Garrick Wagner garrick.wagner@nhs.scot

Best wishes

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On behalf of Scottish Diabetic Eye Screening Programme
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