

# **Barnsley & Rotherham Diabetic Eye Screening Programme**

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The NHS Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (DESP) aims to reduce the risk of sight loss for people with diabetes through the early detection, appropriate monitoring and treatment of diabetic retinopathy, which is one of the biggest causes of blindness among people of working age

Our diabetic eye screening programme needs to identify accurately all people who should be invited for diabetic eye screening and ensure that those who require treatment receive it within appropriate timescales.

## Who should we refer to Diabetic Eye Screening?

- Everyone Diagnosed with Diabetes aged 12 years and over need to be referred to the Screening Programme
- Patients new to the practice who have already had a diabetes diagnosis. These patients may not be known to the DESP
- Patients who are under the Ophthalmology Department. These patients may not be having a diabetes check.
- Patients who may be Medically unfit for screening.  
i.e. Dementia  
Bedbound
- Patient who are registered SI/SSI - If the patients still have PL in either eye we still offer screening.

# Validation process

Validation of all diabetic patients is done every quarter. A request for the information is sent to all GP practices via secure nhs.net email

## Information required

- Patient name
- DOB
- NHS number (+++ +++ +++)
- Address

The lists should be exported from the GP database to an Excel document.

We ask for a one week return, which will enable the screening programme to process the information timely.

## Why is the validation process important?

Incident identified 694 patients delayed referrals from GP practices.

For the incident a delay was defined of 5 months or more from diagnosis or newly registered patients to practice.

Following investigation an incident was raised initially in October 2015. This concluded in May 2016, this resulted in GP practices being asked for their help in ensuring patients were referred in a timely manner.

## After validation - change in process

After engagement with Barnsley CCG and support from the incident MDT the screening programme now :

- On return of validation list from GP practice, will use the patients details to register for screening. An appointment will be sent to the patient within 14 weeks of registering.
- The practice **WILL NOT** be asked for referral forms to be sent for these patients.
- Newly diagnosed patients and newly registered practice patients will still be required to be referred at the first appointment with the GP using the existing referral form and process.
- Please **DO NOT** wait for the validation request from the screening programme to action the above for all new patients.

## Process to date

Quarter 4 Validation commenced. A really good response and return of validation lists timely from Barnsley GP's in the first week.

We are confident this will continue.

Thank you for working with the screening programme

## Next Steps

- The screening programme will update the GP packs sent out in January
- The updates will include the revised SOP and the revised flowchart
- DESP are organising an engagement event inviting practice managers and administration staff.



# Contact Details

**Admin – 01226 434577/434576**

This number can be given to patients for appointment queries

**Fax – 01226 434579**

Referrals can be sent to the fax

**Failsafe Coordinator – 01226 434578**

This number can be used by GP/Nurses to access information about patients or queries

**Email –**

**[barnsandrothdess@nhs.net](mailto:barnsandrothdess@nhs.net)**

Referrals can be sent to this email, also queries from the surgery. Patient can also use this address for queries and appointment requests.

Thank you for listening  
- Any questions?