



## Guidance for local diabetic eye screening services on early requests to rescreen phase 2 cohorts earlier

To support local services in the restoration of diabetic eye screening (DES) a 2-phase risk stratification process is being implemented across England.

Phase 1 cohort individuals cover all those eligible for diabetic eye screening except those at low risk of sight loss. Those in phase 1 should be receiving invites in line with their usual interval for screening.

Phase 2 cohort individuals cover people who attended their previously invited screening appointment and the result was R0M0 (No evidence of eye damage). Local services are able to agree with their commissioners to extend the interval between screening appointments from 12 months to up to 24 months.. However, there may be some circumstances where it may be clinically appropriate to screen an individual earlier than the maximum allowed interval of 24 months but not before the minimum 12-month interval.

Following discussion with the NHS England & Improvement Diabetes Clinical Network, the Diabetic Eye Screening Covid-19 Task & Finish Group has agreed the following guidance to support GPs, diabetologists and eye screening when a previously low risk individual they receive requests to rescreen a phase 2 cohort individual earlier than their re-scheduled appointment.

It may be clinically appropriate for a GP or Diabetologist to request an individual has an earlier rescreen if they are part of the phase 2 cohort and it has been longer than 12 months since their last attended screening appointment if the person with diabetes

- previously had documented longstanding variable HbA1C levels and the treatment (e.g. insulin) has brought about a sudden reduction in HbA1C levels
- has had increased HbA1C levels in the previous 12 months - HbA1c of  $\geq 10\%$ /86mmol/mol
- An individual raised and uncontrolled hypertension with B/P  $\geq 160/100$

Please note if it is less than 12 months since an individual's last attended screening appointment and the GP or diabetologist requires an assessment of their retinas due to the commencement of a new treatment regime, then the individual should be referred for this additional imaging within the usual hospital eye service referral mechanism outside of the screening service.

**This guidance was agreed by the Diabetic Eye Screening Covid-19 Task and Finish Group on 29 July 2020.**