

## [Unique Reference Number]

Assess the eye for evidence of disease or abnormality using slit-lamp biomicroscopy



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### Overview

This standard concerns the clinical examination of the eye by slit-lamp biomicroscopy in a screening programme for diabetic retinopathy. This might be a first examination, which may lead to a referral to a specialist for follow up or treatment, or it may follow photography for those cases in which the photographs have been ungradable or in which diabetic retinopathy has been detected. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 identify procedures required and ensure that all equipment necessary is in working order and that the settings are correct
- P2 confirm the patient's identity and ensure they are prepared for the examination and have given consent
- P3 either prepare the patient yourself or make sure that another professional has prepared the patient for the examination
- P4 ensure that, when required, you instill eye drops or ensure eye drops have been instilled by another professional correctly
- P5 conduct the examination in a manner which encourages the effective participation of the individual and is consistent with their particular requirements
- P6 make sure that the patient is sitting comfortably and is correctly positioned and aligned for the examination
- P7 make sure that you are sitting comfortably and are correctly positioned to examine the patient's eyes in accordance with Health and Safety protocols
- P8 examine the eye with sufficient care to detect any evidence of disease or abnormality which may prevent adequate photography according to your local protocols
- P9 correctly identify the lesions and level of diabetic retinopathy according to your National Screening Programme (NSP) Grading Protocol and local protocol for diabetic retinopathy
- P10 correctly identify evidence of other disease according to your local grading protocol for other lesions
- P11 correctly identify those cases in which there is no disease
- P12 accurately record the findings of your examination and file these in accordance with required procedures
- P13 make recommendations for referral that are based on NSP and/or local protocols and on current evidence
- P14 make arrangements for communication of the results of your assessment, as appropriate within your organisation

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 national guidelines on eye screening and on diabetes monitoring, management and education
- K2 the importance and effects of patient education and self management
- K3 the psychological impact of diabetes, at diagnosis and in the long term
- K4 how to gather information from patients about their health
- K5 how to work in partnership with patients and carers
- K6 the social, cultural and economic background of the patient/carer group
- K7 reasons why patients may attend for slit lamp examination
- K8 how to maintain and set up the slit-lamp according to protocols
- K9 the component parts of the slit-lamp and slit-lamp examination techniques
- K10 the normal appearance of the fundus
- K11 the anatomy and physiology of the eye relating to diabetic eye disease
- K12 the lesions seen in diabetic retinopathy
- K13 the significance of various degrees of retinopathy /pathological changes in DR.
- K14 the National and local grading protocols used in your programme
- K15 common conditions affecting the fundus
- K16 causes, signs and symptoms of diabetes
- K17 the development of complications of diabetes
- K18 the effects of diabetes on a person's eyes
- K19 your role in the healthcare team and the role of others
- K20 the law and good practice guidelines on consent
- K21 local guidelines on diabetes healthcare
- K22 your local infection control procedures and their correct application
- K23 local referral pathways
- K24 local systems for recording patient information
- K25 the Data Protection Act and local patient information protection protocols
- K26 the internal quality assurance system in your organisation
- K27 the external quality assurance systems in the National Screening Programme for Diabetic Retinopathy
- K28 how to handle complaints

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### Additional Information

#### Links to other NOS

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

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