

## Diabetic RetinaScreen – The approach to screening for diabetic retinopathy during pregnancy

### Background

- Diabetic RetinaScreen – The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme offers free annual diabetic retinopathy screening to people with diabetes aged 12 years and older.
- Screening for diabetic retinopathy in pregnant women (with a pre-existing diagnosis of diabetes) should commence in the first trimester of pregnancy with the frequency of screening then dictated by the degree of retinopathy detected at the initial appointment. Pregnant women require a minimum of two retinal assessments during their pregnancy.

### Key Messages for Photography and Grading Service Providers

- Pregnant women (with pre-existing diagnosis of diabetes) whose scheduled Diabetic RetinaScreen screening appointment date falls during their pregnancy should be screened as normal to ensure that they remain on the programme register.
- There is currently no provision to provide increased frequency of screening for diabetic retinopathy during pregnancy in Diabetic RetinaScreen.
- Any woman presenting for photographic screening (under Diabetic RetinaScreen) and who discloses that she is pregnant should be screened. She should be advised of the need for increased screening and that she should attend her local Ophthalmology service for monitoring of her retinopathy status during pregnancy. This referral should be arranged by her General Practitioner or responsible clinician within the Diabetes or Obstetric services as it is not possible to provide increased frequency of screening within the Diabetic RetinaScreen Programme.

### Management of Diabetic RetinaScreen outcomes in the pregnant client

- If there is **no diabetic retinopathy or no referable non diabetic eye disease** detected the client should be returned to routine recall for Diabetic RetinaScreen. The result should be communicated to the woman's GP, include reference to the pregnant state and as a consequence the requirement for referral to their local Ophthalmology service if this has not already taken place.
- If there is **non referable diabetic retinopathy** detected the client should be returned to routine recall for Diabetic RetinaScreen. The result should be communicated to the woman's GP, include reference to the pregnant state and as a consequence the requirement for referral to their local Ophthalmology service if this has not already taken place.

- **Any referable diabetic retinopathy** detected in a client who is known to be pregnant by the screening service provider must be referred to the Ophthalmology service for urgent assessment because of the risk of accelerated progression of diabetic retinopathy in pregnancy. The Ophthalmology service must be informed that the client is pregnant in the referral letter.
- **Referable non-diabetic eye disease** referrals should be referred as per the standard client care pathway but should include reference to the pregnant state.
- If the images are **ungradeable** the woman must be referred urgently to the Ophthalmology service and include reference to the pregnant state.