

## Results and follow-on treatment and investigation

Results will be sent to the participant, their nominated GP and endocrinologist, who will also receive the associated management recommendation.

Most will have a normal result; they will have no retinopathy or early changes to the retina and will be re-invited by Diabetic RetinaScreen the following year for annual diabetic retinopathy eye screening.

If the images taken show that further investigation and possible treatment is required, the participant will be referred to a Diabetic RetinaScreen eye clinic. In the event that further treatment is required, defined pathways have been developed in conjunction with the Irish College of Ophthalmology. The participant's GP and nominated endocrinologist will receive a copy of their screening results and details of the eye clinic they have been referred to. It is not necessary for a GP to make the referral.

At the eye clinic, the patient will be assessed, treated and followed-up as necessary. Their nominated GP will be sent a copy of all correspondence relating to their attendance, diagnosis, treatment and discharge.

Any further assessments of diabetic retinopathy recommended as part of the programme are free of charge.

## GP referrals for non-diabetic eye disease

Diabetic RetinaScreen will manage the referral for further investigation of diabetic retinopathy and a small number of specific non-diabetic eye diseases. If a non-diabetic eye disease is detected that is not covered for onward referral by Diabetic RetinaScreen, it will be noted on the result letter to the GP.

## Factsheet for health professionals

### About Diabetic RetinaScreen

Diabetic RetinaScreen is a Government-funded, quality assured programme that offers free annual diabetic retinopathy screening to people with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes aged 12 and over. Specialised digital photography is used to look for changes that could affect eyesight. Diabetic RetinaScreen is part of the National Screening Service (NSS) which is part of the Health Service Executive (HSE). The NSS also delivers the national programmes BreastCheck, CervicalCheck and BowelScreen.

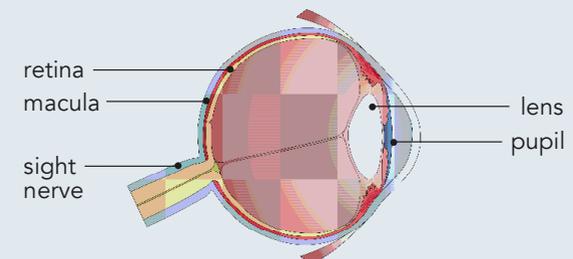
### Why screen for diabetic retinopathy?

Diabetic retinopathy is one of the most common causes of blindness in the working age population in Ireland. It is estimated that there are approximately 190,000 people in Ireland with diabetes and 10 per cent of them are at risk of sight threatening retinopathy.

Diabetic retinopathy may not have any symptoms or may not affect sight in its early stages. When the condition is caught early, treatment is effective at reducing or preventing damage to sight.

### Find out more:

Freephone 1800 45 45 55 or visit the Health Professionals section of [www.diabeticretinascreen.ie](http://www.diabeticretinascreen.ie)



## Who is eligible for Diabetic RetinaScreen?

Anybody with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, aged 12 and older and living in Ireland.

## Joining the programme

Diabetic RetinaScreen has a register of people with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes aged 12 and over. In keeping with the Data Protection Act, personal details and health records are kept safe and confidential. As part of the consent process, a GP must be nominated by those who wish to participate in the programme. To check a patient's inclusion on the register, call Freephone 1800 45 45 55, or visit the Health Professionals section of [www.diabeticretinascreen.ie](http://www.diabeticretinascreen.ie).

All those on the register at the start of the calendar year will receive an invitation for diabetic retinopathy screening in the same year. Anyone currently attending an eye doctor or GP for diabetic retinopathy screening should keep their existing appointments until they receive an appointment from Diabetic RetinaScreen.

## The Diabetic RetinaScreen register

A screening register was compiled for Diabetic RetinaScreen. As the eligible population is continually changing, the programme provides options for health professionals to register and verify newly diagnosed patients with diabetes\*:

1. By contacting Diabetic RetinaScreen on Freephone 1800 45 45 55.
2. Through the Health Professionals section of [www.diabeticretinascreen.ie](http://www.diabeticretinascreen.ie) with an MCRN.
3. Patients can self-register online at [www.diabeticretinascreen.ie](http://www.diabeticretinascreen.ie). A registration form can be completed online, printed, verified with GP practice stamp and sent by Freepost to Diabetic RetinaScreen.

Once on the register, a person will automatically be invited for annual retinopathy screening.

- \* A patient must provide their consent in advance of sharing their details with the programme.

## Prior to the appointment

Diabetic RetinaScreen provides diabetic retinopathy screening only. It is not a full ocular health examination. Global Retinopathy Screening Ltd. (trading as Global Vision) and Medical Imaging Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service Ltd. (MIDRSS) provide diabetic retinopathy screening services on behalf of the programme.

Anyone who takes part in the programme will receive an appointment letter for a local screening centre. Diabetic RetinaScreen aims to offer a screening location that is as close as possible to the participant's home. There are over 90 screening locations nationwide and seven treatment clinics.

Those under the age of 16 must be accompanied to their appointment by a parent or guardian.

## The screening appointment

Dilating eye drops are administered to allow the photographer a better view of the retina to obtain quality images. These may sting and cause blurred vision for up to nine hours, affecting the ability to drive or operate machinery. The appointment will last about 30 minutes.

Photographs are taken with a digital camera. The camera does not touch the eyes. The images are reviewed by an expert for grading/reporting.

## Tips for the day of appointment:

- Those who wear glasses (distance glasses in particular) or contact lenses, should bring them.
- Eyes can feel sensitive after the eye drops – sunglasses may help.
- There is no need to fast.
- Participants should not drive or operate machinery after the appointment until vision is clear, as eye drops may affect sight for up to 9 hours.