

*Diabetic Eye Complication Screening

*Retinopathy Screening for people with diabetes in
Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham*

Patient Fact Sheet and Self-Referral Form*

*This form is for GPs practice staff to give to patients. It provides some basic information regarding diabetic retinopathy screening for the patient and our contact details to book a convenient appointment for diabetic eye screening

How can diabetes affect my eyes?

When diabetes affects the small blood vessels in the part of your eye called the retina, this is known as diabetic retinopathy. The retina lines the inside of the eye and acts rather like a film in a camera. In the early stages, diabetic retinopathy will not affect your sight. However, if the changes get worse, eventually your sight will be affected.

Why is it important to screen for diabetic retinopathy?

- Not everyone with diabetes will get diabetic retinopathy, but screening is an effective way of detecting diabetic retinopathy as early as possible.
- If we find sight threatening diabetic retinopathy, we will refer you to an eye department where you may receive some laser treatment.
- Laser treatment is very effective at reducing loss of sight from diabetic retinopathy
- Diabetic retinopathy does not usually affect your sight until changes are quite far gone. As this stage, laser treatment is much less effective.

What happens during diabetic retinopathy screening?

- Photographs will be taken of your retina.
- You will usually need eye drops before the photos are taken to make your pupils large enough for the photographs
- You will receive a results letter and will either be recalled for screening again in 12 months, or if diabetic retinopathy is found, referred to specialist eye doctor at St Thomas or Kings.

For further information, please contact us or discuss with your GP or practice nurse.

Patient Self Referral – for patients registered with a GP in Lambeth, Southwark or Lewisham (GP practice staff should complete this for you. We will need your NHS number to book an appointment for you.)

Name: _____

Your NHS Number: _____

GP stamp:
The Hambleden Clinic
Blanchdowne, Denmark Hill, SE5 8HL
T: 0207 274 1846 F: 0207 733 3707

GP surgery name and code: Edith Cavell Surgery G85724

Please contact DECS admin on 020 718 81979 or email decsadmin@gstt.nhs.uk to book your annual diabetic eye screening appointment. You can choose to attend either St Thomas, Guy's, Kings, Lewisham or Gracefield Gardens Health Centre in Streatham.