

HC1 Confirm that the patient and the equipment are ready for screening for diabetic retinopathy

About this workforce competence

This workforce competence concerns the initial preparation of individuals for examination for diabetic retinopathy. This will include the initial assessment and monitoring or evaluation of progress. Where patients are children, or have special needs, this will normally involve discussion with carers and may require you to identify specific procedures.

The activities described in this competence should precede the examinations for diabetic retinopathy described in HC2, HC3 and HC4.

Links

This workforce competence links with the following dimensions and levels within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004)

Dimension HWB6: Assessment and treatment planning

Level: 1

Origin

This workforce competence has been developed by Skills for Health.

It is based on common NOS *I13 Confirm patient readiness for investigation or treatment of visual system and supporting structures* developed by the Health Care Science NOS Project

Scope

Consent	written or verbal, as appropriate within national protocol
Patients/individuals	all individuals with diabetes, including children (age 12 and over) and individuals with special needs
Procedures	include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) instilling eye dropsb) measuring visual acuityc) obtaining images of the retinad) examination by slit lamp biomicroscopy
Special needs	include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) literacy difficultiesb) language barriersc) physical mobilityd) learning difficulties

Performance criteria

You need to:

1. identify which **procedures** are required and ensure that all equipment necessary is in working order and correctly calibrated
2. confirm the **patient's** identity and identify and record any **special needs** that may influence the performance or results of the examination
3. establish that the patient understands why they have been invited to attend
4. make sure an appropriate level of privacy is provided at all stages of the examination
5. enquire whether the patient is driving or has previously experienced any allergic response to mydriatic drops
6. follow the appropriate written protocol, or seek advice from suitably qualified colleagues as to next action, when clear contra-indications are identified
7. explain how the tests will be performed and any possible side effects or consequences of the procedure to the patient, provide verbal and printed information as appropriate, and confirm that the individual understands this
8. answer any questions the patient may ask as fully as possible, within your level of competence, seek advice if you are unable to answer questions, and reassure the patient if they have any concerns
9. record details should the patient not wish to proceed with the examination and inform suitably qualified colleagues
10. make sure that the patient has been informed
 - how the information they give will be used and stored
 - who will have access to this information
 - who will be informed of the results of the examination.
11. proceed with the examination if the patient gives **consent** for the procedures, as explained, to be performed

Diabetes Competence Framework HC1 Confirm that the patient and the equipment are ready for screening for diabetic retinopathy

Knowledge and understanding

You need to apply:

National guidelines

- K1 A basic awareness of national guidelines on eye screening and on diabetes monitoring, management and education

Working in partnership with patients and carers

- K2 A working understanding of the needs of first-time patients and those that have been screened previously.
- K3 A working understanding of the anxieties or concerns which patients may experience and how to alleviate them
- K4 A working understanding of what patients need to be able to do in order to undergo investigative procedures, and special needs of patients which may affect their ability to do so.
- K5 A working understanding of how to communicate with patients where there are barrier to communication, including learning difficulties, deafness, language barriers, physical barriers, cognitive state
- K6 A working understanding of the social, cultural and economic background of the patient/carer group

Technical

- K7 An in-depth understanding of the performance of tests consistent with your personal role, responsibilities and level of responsibility
- K8 A working understanding of how to maintain and set up equipment according to protocols
- K9 A working understanding of contra-indications to dilating the pupil (*nb glaucoma is not a contra-indication*) ie allergy to mydriatic drops, and driving
- K10 A working understanding of relevant action should contra-indications be identified, including contact with suitably qualified colleagues

Diabetes

- K19 A factual knowledge of causes, signs and symptoms of diabetes
- K20 A factual knowledge of the development of complications of diabetes
- K21 A factual knowledge of the effects of diabetes on a person's eyes

Organisational and legal issues

- K22 A working understanding of your role in the healthcare team and the role of others
- K23 A working understanding of the importance and significance of confirming patient identity, consent and the range of investigations or treatment required
- K24 A working understanding of requirements for accurate and legible recording of information
- K25 A factual knowledge of Data Protection Act and local patient information protection protocols
- K26 A working understanding the law and good practice guidelines on consent
- K27 A working understanding of systems for clinical governance
- K28 A working understanding of quality assurance systems
- K29 A working understanding of the complaints system and how to deal with complaints