

HC5 Assess images of the fundus for evidence of disease

About this workforce competence

This workforce competence covers the triage of images of the fundus for evidence of diabetic disease according to your National Screening Programme protocol and any other disease according to your local protocol. Where there are indications of **abnormality**, the images must be referred for full disease grading.

Links

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

Dimension HWB6: Assessment and treatment planning

Level: 3

Origin

This workforce competence has been developed by Skills for Health

Scope

Abnormality

according to national protocols for diabetic retinopathy and local protocols for other disease

Images

digital images

Protocols for referral to full grading

fast track (urgent) and routine

Performance criteria

You need to:

1. carry out the assessment of **images** within your required National Screening Programme quality assurance targets, and/or local targets
2. prepare the equipment, and check the images you are grading with the identity of the patient
3. assess images for clarity, correct positioning and gradability
4. record as ungradable those images of eyes which do not reach the gradable standard set by your organisation, and take action according to local **protocols**
5. examine images of each eye and accurately identify the presence or absence of diabetic disease according to your National Screening Programme protocol and any other **abnormality** according to your local protocol
6. record the presence of any other findings according to locally agreed protocols
7. forward all images identified with disease, and those cases in which you are not certain, according to your protocols for further grading
8. accurately record the findings of your assessment
9. make arrangements for communication of the results of your assessment, as appropriate within your organisation
10. file the findings and the images in accordance with required procedures

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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

Specialist knowledge for grading

- K2 An in-depth knowledge of the equipment and software used in your programme

- | K3 An in-depth understanding of the protocol for assessing clarity, positioning and gradability of images

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- K4 An in-depth understanding of the normal appearance of the fundus

- | K5 An in-depth understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the eye relating to diabetic eye disease

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- K6 A working understanding of the local protocol for other disease

- | K7 A working understanding of local arrangement for ungradable images

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Diabetes

- K8 A factual knowledge of causes, signs and symptoms of diabetes

- | K9 A factual knowledge of the development of complications of diabetes

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- | K10 A working understanding of the effects of diabetes on a person's eyes

Organisational and legal issues

- K11 An in-depth understanding of your role in the healthcare team and the role of others

- K12 A working understanding of the National Screening Programme Grading Protocol, or local protocols, as applicable, for diabetic retinopathy

- K13 A basic awareness of local guidelines on diabetes healthcare

- K14 A working understanding of local referral pathways

- K15 A working understanding of local systems for recording patient information

- K16 A working understanding of the law and good practice guidelines on consent

- K17 A working understanding of the Data Protection Act and local patient information protection protocols

- | K18 A working understanding of the complaints system and how to handle complaints

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- K19 An in-depth knowledge of the internal quality assurance system in your organisation
- K20 A working understanding of the external quality assurance systems in the National Screening Programme for Diabetic Retinopathy