

Patient information factsheet

Diabetic eye screening: digital surveillance

You have been given this factsheet because your hospital doctor feels your diabetic eye disease is stable and does not require any further treatment at the moment. However, the health of your eyes must be carefully monitored in the future to ensure any changes are picked up quickly. Everyone with diabetes who is over 12 years old is invited to attend eye screening at least once a year. Digital surveillance involves having your eyes screened more frequently, as required.

How does digital surveillance differ from annual screening?

The process is the same; detailed photographs are taken of your retinas (the back of your eyes). However, annual screening occurs just once a year, with the photographs then being graded for any signs of diabetic eye disease by specially trained graders. With digital surveillance, photographs can be taken more often than once a year, as required. The images are then reviewed by a senior eye doctor with experience in diabetic eye disease. This ensures that any changes, however small, can be picked up quickly.

Digital surveillance takes place on one of our screening vans, or in clinics offered at Southampton, Winchester or Isle of Wight hospitals. You can choose where you would like your appointment to take place.

What happens now?

We'll need to examine your eyes initially to ensure that digital surveillance is definitely the most appropriate way to monitor your eye condition. You will be invited to attend the Diabetic Eye Screening Service to have photographs taken of the back of your eyes within the next three months.

These photos will be assessed, leading to one of two outcomes:

- 1. If you are suitable for digital surveillance follow-up by the screening service** you will be sent further appointments to attend for photographs in the future. The frequency of your visits will depend on the findings at each assessment. If your eye condition progresses, you may be referred back to your local hospital eye service.
- 2. If you are not suitable for digital surveillance follow-up by the screening service (for example if you require retinal scanning that is not part of screening)** you will be referred back to your hospital eye service who will continue to monitor and treat your eye condition as appropriate.

Please feel free to ask any further questions when you attend for your first digital surveillance visit or contact the Diabetic Eye Screening Service for more information (Tel. 0300 1233937).

If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audiotape, please telephone 023 8120 4688 for help.