

Project Title: Optimum screening intervals for people with diabetes and non-sight threatening diabetic retinopathy – a pilot study.

Diabetic eye disease is one of the leading causes of low vision and blindness in the UK and worldwide. The ability to successfully prevent blindness and other sight threatening conditions relies on the early detection and timely treatment of sight threatening lesions.

Since 2003 Diabetic Eye Screening Wales (DESW) has screened all persons with diabetes over the age of 12 registered with a general practitioner in Wales every year (approximately 180,000). However, the escalating number of persons diagnosed with diabetes will require a greater investment. Recent evidence suggests that annual screening is not necessary for those without evidence of DR on two previous occasions, allowing screening to be conducted once every 2 or 3 years. The question now is whether screening once every year is necessary for those with background DR (non-sight threatening DR)?