

DIABETIC EYE SCREENING - COVID-19 RESTART

During the Covid-19 pandemic diabetic eye screening in the UK was paused for some people. The restarting of screening requires prioritisation to help programmes to be safe and still identify those most at risk of sight loss. Screening clinics will also have reduced capacity due to social distancing and cleaning requirements.

HOW WILL SCREENING BE PRIORITISED

Prioritisation will be based on previous screening results and apply to both type 1 & type 2 diabetes. There are 2 levels of prioritisation based on who is most at risk of experiencing sight loss

1. FIRST TO BE INVITED

- Those with a previous pre-proliferative (R2) or stable treated proliferative (R3s) screening results
- Pregnant women
- Women postpartum
- Those newly diagnosed & therefore no screening history
- Those with previous background diabetic retinopathy (R1)
- Those who did not attend their previous screening invitation

2. SECOND TO BE INVITED

- Those without diabetic retinopathy at last screening appointment. A maximum of 24 months between screening invitations is allowed.

What should I do?

- Manage blood glucose
- Manage blood pressure
- Manage cholesterol levels
- If you are concerned you can check when you might be due your next eye screening appointment

WHAT IF I NOTICE CHANGES TO MY EYESIGHT

- Any sudden changes to your eye sight should be checked as soon as possible.
- If gradual changes or you are concerned your opticians can help
- If sudden changes, total sight loss, severe pain or trauma to your eye(s) then you should contact your nearest hospital eye casualty

Dr Rebecca Thomas @beckylt09
& Prof Partha Kar @parthaskar