

Diabetes Eye Care Clinical Pathway

Background and Purpose

- **Collaboration** between the Neurosciences, Rehabilitation & Vision (NRV) Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)[™] and the Diabetes, Obesity & Nutrition (DON) SCN[™].
- **Diabetic retinopathy** is the **main cause of vision loss** in the working age population.
- Only 47% of Albertans with diabetes are seen on a regular basis by an ophthalmologist or an optometrist.
- Therefore **53% are not receiving an annual diabetes eye exam**, due to numerous barriers.
- The Pathway is based on existing clinical practice guidelines and is being developed to:
 - Support the **early detection** and **timely treatment** of diabetic retinopathy.
 - **Reduce the occurrence of vision loss.**

[Diabetes Eye Care Clinical Pathway](#)

Steering Committee

- **Purpose**

Provides leadership, strategic direction and support for the development, implementation, and monitoring of the Pathway.
- **Membership**
 - Includes optometrists, ophthalmologists, retinal specialists, primary care, medical students, vision loss rehabilitation, endocrinologists and patient advisors.
 - Co-chaired by the Executive Director of the NRV SCN and a Retinal Specialist.
- **Collaboration**

With the Strategy for Patient Oriented Research Patient Engagement Platform to **ensure appropriate screening and eye care is available to all Albertans**, including vulnerable populations (i.e. immigrants) who experience barriers to receiving the eye exam.



Progress

- The **Project Team** is
 - building an **inventory of optometrists who offer mobile services** to patients who have barriers in attending an appointment at an optometrist office.
 - adding all optometrists and their services to the **Alberta Referral Directory**.
- Members of the **Steering Committee** participated in the development of the following tools and resources for patients
 - Diabetes retinopathy [patient care handout](#).
 - [Awareness video](#) on the importance of regular diabetes eye screening. The video was produced in partnership with Health Unlimited Television (HUTV) and has been streaming in 100 AHS locations throughout the province.
 - Awareness [poster](#) that has been translated in 11 languages (French, Spanish, Arabic, Persian, Ahmaric, Hindi, Punjabi, Somali, Tagalog, Tigrinya and Urdu).
 - The **DECCP website** and **DECCP Primary Care Resource Toolkit** will be developed and available in the spring of 2021.

Questions? Comments? Feedback?

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