



Hackney Diabetes Centre
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Diabetes eye screening

**Hackney
Diabetes
Centre**

What is the National Screening Programme for Diabetic Retinopathy?

The Department of Health has set up a National Screening Programme to screen people for Diabetic Retinopathy (eye disease). If you are 12 years old or more and have diabetes, you should be offered photographic screening for diabetic retinopathy every year. In Hackney this is done in the Hackney Diabetes Centre. You can get information about diabetes eye screening on our website: www.homerton.nhs.uk/eyescreening.

Why is it important to screen for diabetic retinopathy?

- › Untreated diabetic retinopathy is one of the most common causes of blindness in the working-age population
- › Laser treatment is very effective at reducing loss of sight from diabetic retinopathy
- › Diabetic retinopathy does not usually affect your sight until the changes are quite far gone. At this stage, laser treatment is much less effective.



What is screening for diabetic retinopathy?

- Screening means examining your eyes regularly to detect whether or not the specific changes of diabetic retinopathy, that could soon affect your sight, can be seen.
- The aim is to pick up diabetic eye problems at an early stage, when treatment will be most effective
- If you do not have a serious eye problem when you are screened, you will be advised to return for screening at least every year for another check up.

Do all people with diabetes need eye screening?

Yes. All people with diabetes aged 12 years and over should have eye screening every year. This is equally true whether you need insulin, tablets, or just a careful diet to keep your diabetes under control.

Screening is only designed to detect diabetic retinopathy. It does **not** always detect other eye conditions such as cataracts or glaucoma. However, in some cases these conditions will be detected and you will either be referred to an eye department directly, or to your GP, for more investigations.

What should I do if I had an eye screening appointment but missed it?

Arranging another appointment is easy. Call us on **020 8510 5911** and we will arrange another appointment.