



Diab HC7 Assess the eye for evidence of disease or abnormality using slit-lamp biomicroscopy

OVERVIEW

This standard concerns the clinical examination of the eye by slit-lamp biomicroscopy in a screening programme for diabetic retinopathy. This might be a first examination, which may lead to a referral to a specialist for follow up or treatment, or it may follow photography for those cases in which the photographs have been ungradable or in which diabetic retinopathy has been detected. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies. Version No 1

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

- 1.national guidelines on eye screening and on diabetes monitoring, management and education
- 2.the importance and effects of patient education and self management
- 3.the psychological impact of diabetes, at diagnosis and in the long term
- 4.how to gather information from patients about their health
- 5.how to work in partnership with patients and carers
- 6.the social, cultural and economic background of the patient/carer group
- 7.reasons why patients may attend for slit lamp examination
- 8.how to maintain and set up the slit-lamp according to protocols
- 9.the component parts of the slit-lamp and slit-lamp examination techniques
- 10.the normal appearance of the fundus
- 11.the anatomy and physiology of the eye relating to diabetic eye disease
- 12.the lesions seen in diabetic retinopathy
- 13.the significance of various degrees of retinopathy /pathological changes in DR.
- 14.the National and local grading protocols used in your programme
- 15.common conditions affecting the fundus
- 16.causes, signs and symptoms of diabetes
- 17.the development of complications of diabetes
- 18.the effects of diabetes on a person's eyes
- 19.your role in the healthcare team and the role of others
- 20.the law and good practice guidelines on consent
- 21.local guidelines on diabetes healthcare
- 22.your local infection control procedures and their correct application
- 23.local referral pathways

- 24.local systems for recording patient information
- 25.the Data Protection Act and local patient information protection protocols
- 26.the internal quality assurance system in your organisation
- 27.the external quality assurance systems in the National Screening Programme for Diabetic Retinopathy
- 28.how to handle complaints

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

- 1.identify procedures required and ensure that all equipment necessary is in working order and that the settings are correct
- 2.confirm the patient's identity and ensure they are prepared for the examination and have given consent
- 3.either prepare the patient yourself or make sure that another professional has prepared the patient for the examination
- 4.ensure that, when required, you instill eye drops or ensure eye drops have been instilled by another professional correctly
- 5.conduct the examination in a manner which encourages the effective participation of the individual and is consistent with their particular requirements
- 6.make sure that the patient is sitting comfortably and is correctly positioned and aligned for the examination
- 7.make sure that you are sitting comfortably and are correctly positioned to examine the patient's eyes in accordance with Health and Safety protocols
- 8.examine the eye with sufficient care to detect any evidence of disease or abnormality which may prevent adequate photography according to your local protocols
- 9.correctly identify the lesions and level of diabetic retinopathy according to your National Screening Programme (NSP) Grading Protocol and local protocol for diabetic retinopathy
- 10.correctly identify evidence of other disease according to your local grading protocol for other lesions
- 11.correctly identify those cases in which there is no disease
- 12.accurately record the findings of your examination and file these in accordance with required procedures
- 13.make recommendations for referral that are based on NSP and/or local protocols and on current evidence
- 14.make arrangements for communication of the results of your assessment, as appropriate within your organisation

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health. This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004): Dimension HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning. This standard has replaced HCS_OV14.