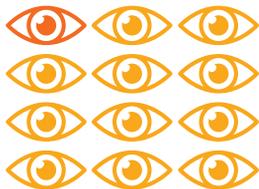


# Preventing Vision Loss From Diabetes

Anyone with diabetes should be screened at least once a year to detect early changes and prevent vision loss. Most people have no visual symptoms until it is too late. **Diabetes is the #1 cause of blindness among working age adults.**

## DIABETES



## 1 out of 12

1 out of 12 diabetics have potentially blinding retinal damage.\*

## 90%

About 90% of vision loss can be prevented with timely treatment.

\*Source: Community Clinic data in EyePACS

## About Us

Our goal is to detect diabetic retinal disease in the early stages in order to prevent irreversible vision loss due to diabetic retinopathy. We do this by coordinating with community health centers, primary care clinics and hospitals throughout California to screen patients during their regular visits to their primary care provider.

## Did you know?

- 1 About 90% of vision loss can be prevented with early detection and treatment.
- 2 Sight threatening diabetic retinopathy typically has no symptoms until it permanently damages your vision.
- 3 Diabetic retinopathy occurs when diabetes damages the tiny blood vessels inside the retina (the tissue at the back of the eye that provides good vision).
- 4 Vision that is lost because of diabetes often cannot be restored, even with glasses, contact lenses or surgery.

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## Our Services

Digital retinal imaging is an established method of screening for diabetic retinopathy. At your primary care clinic, staff capture high quality photos of each eye. These photos are then transmitted via the internet to UC Berkeley credentialed eyecare providers. Photos are evaluated for diabetic eye disease and the results are sent to your primary care doctor. If further evaluation is needed, you will be referred to a local eye care provider.

### How often should I be screened?

Most diabetic patients should be screened once a year. Follow-ups may be needed.

### Does diabetic retinopathy screening replace a comprehensive eye exam?

No. Retinal screening is important for preventing blindness due to diabetes, but cannot detect many other eye diseases. Having annual exams with an eye care professional is essential to maintaining good vision and eye health.

### I have no problems with my vision. Why do I need to be screened?

Once you have symptoms it is often too late! Detection and treatment before symptoms appear is important to avoiding permanent damage to your vision.

### How much will it cost?

Diabetic retinopathy screenings are often covered by insurance or subsidized by your clinic. Contact your insurer or ask clinic staff for more information.

### Can the photography damage my vision?

No. The photos we take are the same as any other digital camera, including the one on your phone.

### Will I be able to drive after the screening?

If your retinal photography is done without dilating drops, you will be able to drive. If your eyes are dilated, you may experience blurriness or sensitivity to light for a short time. The clinic will give you temporary sunglasses.

**Berkeley**  
Optometry

Digital  
Health



**No Symptoms,  
No Pain.**

**Once you have symptoms it is often too late! Detection and treatment before symptoms appear is important to avoiding permanent damage to your vision.**

## Contacts

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