

Diploma in Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Learners' information



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Learners' information

This Diploma has been developed in response to the National Service Framework for Diabetes. This framework set the target in its delivery strategy in 2003 that 'by 2006, a minimum of 80% of people with diabetes are to be offered screening for the early detection (and treatment if needed) of diabetic retinopathy as part of a systematic programme that meets national standards, rising to 100% coverage of those at risk of retinopathy by end 2007'. This target was reflected in the Department of Health Performance and Planning Document for 2003-6 and in the recent Department of Health document 'National Standards, Local Actions'.

In order to fulfil this target there has to be a competent workforce who can provide evidence of skills and knowledge. This can be achieved by setting a national syllabus and assessment standard, so that all providers of training are working towards a nationally accredited qualification.

It is anticipated that this will encourage the recruitment of more staff for diabetic retinal screening (and so meet the Department of Health targets) and will also aid retention of staff.

Is this qualification right for me?

This qualification is designed to meet the learning needs of all personnel involved in the identification of sight threatening diabetic retinopathy in the National Screening Programme for Diabetic Retinopathy.

It has been specifically developed to meet the requirements of the National Service Framework (NSF) for new and existing key workers. It is designed to encourage a multi-disciplinary and interprofessional focus for learners from a diverse range of backgrounds.

What will I learn and how will I be assessed?

The qualification comprises 8 core units and an exit examination. The exit examination can only be taken after achieving all the core units. To gain the qualification, the following 8 core units must be achieved and the online multiple choice exit examination passed.

- National Screening Programmes, Processes and Protocols
- Diabetes
- Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology of the Eye and its Clinical Relevance
- Preparing the patient for Retinal Screening
- Measuring Visual Acuity and Pharmacological Dilatation
- Imaging the Eye
- Detecting Retinal Disease
- Grading Diabetic Retinopathy

These are expected to take approximately 310 notional learning hours. However, whilst some units are theoretical and could be delivered by lectures, seminars, and/or private study, many are practice based and need to be

be learned in the work environment.

The following two units are offered as options and are designed for more specific roles within the diabetic retinopathy screening process.

- Slit Lamp Assessment
- Retinal Screening Information Systems

Certificates of unit credit will be issued to learners who are successful in one or more units, but who do not wish to complete the full qualification.

What are the entry requirements?

You will normally be employed to work in retinopathy screening and will be referred by your NHS trust or by the organisation contracted by the PCT to provide screening. This will presuppose the necessary literacy, numeracy and care skills required to undergo the training.

Are there learning materials available?

Yes, there is a guide available which includes full details about the structure and the units of the qualification. Your training centre will supply you with additional materials you may need.

Are there any other qualifications that may be of interest to me?

You may also be interested in:

NVQs in Health (3173)

Certificate in the safe use of infusion devices (7354)

How can I find out more?

You can find out more by visiting the National Screening Programme's website www.nscretinopathy.com.

You can also contact your nearest City & Guilds centre. Log on to our website to find the location of your nearest one, or contact our Customer Relations team at:

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Key points

- This qualification has been developed in response to the National Service Framework for Diabetes.
- This qualification meets the learning needs of people working in the National Screening Programme.