



Members of the Senedd

26 June 2023

Dear Colleagues

I am writing to notify you that following scientific evidence and the recommendation of the UK National Screening Committee, diabetic eye screening in Wales is changing for people who are at low risk of diabetic eye disease. If a participant's last two diabetic eye screenings showed no sign of diabetic eye disease, they will now be safely screened every two years instead of every year. This change will be made by the screening programme from today (26 June 2023). Scotland and Northern Ireland have already implemented this change, with England likely to implement soon.

This change is being implemented because the evidence shows it is safe to screen those who are at low risk of diabetic eye disease every two years, and it will release these participants from attending unnecessary annual appointments. This change only applies to those at low risk of diabetic eye disease. Everyone else will continue to be screened annually. An added benefit of this is that it will reduce demand, enabling the programme to prioritise those most at risk of diabetic eye disease and help to recover the programme more quickly from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, thus reducing the risk of avoidable sight loss.

Further information about diabetic eye screening, including some FAQs about the recent change to the programme, can be found on the [Public Health Wales](https://www.nhs.uk/public-health-wales) website.

Yours sincerely,

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol**  
**Minister for Health and Social Services**

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.