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| **Q** *What happens to the images of my eyes now?*  **A** The pictures taken of your retina (the back of your eyes) are assessed for signs of changes caused by diabetes.  **Q** *When will I get the results of my screening*?  **A** We aim to send out your results, by letter, within 3 weeks. As part of our quality assurance process at least 10% of normal images are chosen to be viewed by a further clinician. These images are chosen at random and are simply our way of ensuring a high quality service. If your images are chosen there may be a slight delay in the results reaching you, please do not worry. All images showing signs of diabetic changes are sent for a second assessment by a further clinician.  **Q** *Will my Doctor and Practice Nurse know I have been screened?*  **A** Yes. When we send you your result letter we will also send your GP’s surgery a copy of your results.  **Q** *How will I know when I need to be screened again?*  **A** Once you have attended the screening service you will automatically be sent an appointment each year, unless we find that you need to be screened more frequently.  **Q** *When will I be safe to drive after screening?*  **A** You should not drive as your vision can be blurred for up to three to four hours after the screening appointment.  **Q** *Will I still need to see my high street optometrist (optician)?*  **A** Yes, you will need to see your optometrist (optician) for regular eye examinations. (He or she will tell how often you should have appointments with them) The diabetic eye screening service is to detect possible changes within the retina due to diabetes only; other eye conditions/disease may not be picked up by the screening. Your optometrist will advise you how often you should be seen. Please take the letter with your screening result with you to your optician.  **Q** *Are there any possible side effects from the eye drops?*  **A** Most people do not have any side effects, but as with any medication a small percentage of people may develop some symptoms. |
| **Q** *What if I am one of the few who develops side effect, what should I expect and what should I do?*  **A** If you develop severe pain or discomfort in your eye, the white part of your eye goes red or your eyes become constantly blurred possibly with a rainbow/halo effect around lights you should either return to the eye unit where you were screened (daytime only) or go straight to an Accident and Emergency unit. Tell the unit that you have had retinal screening and that your pupils were dilated.  **Q** *What are the normal effects of the eye drops?*  **A** The drops will make your pupils much larger and this will allow more light into your eye. If it is a bright sunny day you will find you experience more glare than usual. Your ability to focus will be reduced. You may find sunglasses useful after screening, especially if it is a bright sunny day.  **Q** *What if my images show more than small amounts of diabetic changes?*  **A** You will receive an appointment to attend the eye clinic at either Musgrove Park Hospital, Yeovil District Hospital or the Royal United Hospital. They will decide if you need any treatment or just need to be seen more often.  **Q** *What treatment can be given?*  **A** Often a specialist type of laser is used. This helps slow down the changes in your eyes due to diabetes. The most common changes are blood vessels within the eye that begin to leak (haemorrhage). If this is allowed to increase untreated your vision may deteriorate significantly.  Please remember next time you come for screening to bring your ordinary spectacles (both distance, near, bifocals or varifocals) and some sunglasses  **Comments -** If you have any comments on the service please write to:  Operational Service Manager  Somerset Diabetic Eye Screening Programme  Parkgate House  East Reach  Taunton  TA1 3ES  E-Mail: [eyescreening@sompar.nhs.uk](mailto:eyescreening@sompar.nhs.uk)  Phone: 01823 346127 |