

Encourage Annual Eye Exams for Our Members with Diabetes

People with diabetes are at a higher risk of vision loss and eye diseases, but 60% don't get annual eye exams, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Early diagnosis and proper treatment can greatly lower the chance of blindness from diabetic retinopathy. You may play an important role in supporting our members with diabetes by encouraging an annual retinal or dilated eye exam by an eye care specialist.

In its [Standards of Care in Diabetes](#) for retinopathy, the American Diabetes Association recommends annual dilated retinal exams by an ophthalmologist or optometrist for members with any signs of retinopathy. See our [preventive care](#) and [clinical practice guidelines](#) for more information on diabetes.

Closing gaps in care: We track [Eye Exam for Patients with Diabetes](#), a Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measure from the National Committee for Quality Assurance. EED captures the percentage of our members ages 18 to 75 with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) who have a retinal eye exam by an eye care professional during the measurement year to screen or monitor for diabetic retinal disease.

To help close gaps in care for this measure, consider the following tips:

- In early stages of retinopathy, people often don't experience any symptoms. **Discuss the importance of annual eye exams** with our members who have diabetes, including members who are planning to be pregnant or are pregnant. We've created [information that may help](#).
- **Build care gap alerts for eye exams** in our members' electronic medical records and send them reminders.
- Eye care specialists are encouraged to **communicate exam results** to our members' primary care providers to help coordinate care.

We track **additional quality measures** for our members with diabetes:

- Hemoglobin A1c Control for Patients with Diabetes, Blood Pressure Control for Patients with Diabetes and Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients with Diabetes: [Learn more](#)
- Statin Therapy for Patients with Diabetes: [Learn more](#)
- Diabetes Screening for People with Schizophrenia or Bipolar Disorder Who are Using Antipsychotic Medications: [Learn more](#)

More resources for Medicaid providers

- [ImmTrac2](#) Texas Immunization Registry
- [Quality Improvement Toolkit and Tip Sheets](#) for Medicaid providers
- [Texas Health Steps](#) for Medicaid providers

The above material is for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for the independent medical judgment of a physician or other health care provider. Physicians and other health care providers are encouraged to use their own medical judgment based upon all available information and the condition of the patient in determining the appropriate course of treatment. The fact that a service or treatment is described in this material is not a guarantee that the service or treatment is a covered benefit and members should refer to their certificate of coverage for more details, including benefits, limitations and exclusions. Regardless of benefits, the final decision about any service or treatment is between the member and their health care provider.

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