

HEDIS® Tip Sheet

Eye Exam for Patients with Diabetes (EED)



CarePartners of Connecticut's HEDIS Tip Sheets offer insights into specific HEDIS measures. These best practices and tips can optimize HEDIS scores and identify opportunities to improve patient care.

The EED measure assesses the percentage of patients 18-75 years of age with diabetes (types 1 and 2) who had a retinal eye exam by an eye care professional. This includes:

- A **negative** retinal or dilated eye exam (negative for retinopathy) by an optometrist or ophthalmologist in the measurement year or year prior
- A **positive** retinal or dilated eye exam by an optometrist or ophthalmologist in the measurement year



Provider Best Practices

- Educate patients on the importance of screening and the difference between routine and dilated or retinal eye exams.
- Refer patients to an optometrist or ophthalmologist annually for dilated or retinal eye exams.
- Document the **date of the dilated or retinal exam, results, and eye care provider name and credentials** in the patient's medical record.
- For patient-reported eye exams, document **date, results, and eye care provider name and credentials** in the patient's medical record.
- Review exam reports and record any eye abnormalities on the patient's active problem list.



Screening Tips

- Eye exams must be completed by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist.
- Routine eye exams for glasses, glaucoma, or cataracts do not meet screening criteria.
- An eye exam result documented as "unknown" does not meet criteria.
- Fundus photography may be used if:
 - It is clear the results were reviewed by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist, or the results were read by a qualified reading center under the direction of a retinal specialist
 - The fundus/retinal photography documentation includes the date, result, and eye care professional name with credentials
- Optical coherence tomography is considered imaging and is eligible for use.

Note: *Blindness is not an exclusion for a diabetic eye exam because it is difficult to distinguish between individuals who are legally blind but require a retinal exam and those who are completely blind and therefore do not require an exam.*



Additional Resources

The [CDC Website](#) and [The NIH National Eye Institute](#) provide information and resources dedicated to the treatment of diabetic eye disease.

Did you know?



Diabetes is the leading cause of [new cases of blindness in adults](#) aged 18-64.

In early stages, [diabetic retinopathy](#) may not have any obvious signs or symptoms.