

6 August 2019

Re: Official Information Act request – Diabetic retinal photo screening

I refer to your official information request dated 8 July 2019 and received by Auckland DHB on 15 July 2019 requesting the following information:

Question about diabetic retinal photoscreening.

Would you be able to tell me what is the percentage coverage rate for diabetic retinal screening in Auckland DHB and Manukau Counties DHB, and if known would you be okay with me putting that number on a powerpoint slide at Save Sight Society Conference?

ie calculation described Appendix E in the MoH diabetic retinal screening grading monitoring and referral guidance 2016 indicator #2

<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/diabetic-retinal-screening-grading-monitoring-and-referral-guidance>

Numerator - The number of people with diabetes (unique NHI) who have had a retinal screen within the last two years (or other reporting period)

Denominator The number of people with diabetes (unique NHI) enrolled in a primary health organisation (PHO) who live in a district health board (DHB) region, by lead DHB on the last day of the reporting period (reported at a patient level).

Diabetic Retinal screening coverage for Auckland DHB is:

- 56.2% (54.8% for Māori and 48.7% for Pacific) for the last two years

- 61.8% (61.4% for Māori and 56.0% for Pacific) for the last three years.

Diabetic Retinal screening coverage for Counties Manukau DHB is:

- 48.2% (47.5% for Māori and 41.1% for Pacific) for the last two years
- 56.8% (57.1% for Māori and 51.2% for Pacific) for the last three years.

Please note: DHB retinal screening coverage is based on practice domicile not patient domicile.

Data source: Auckland, Waitematā and Counties Manukau DHB diabetic retinal screening and ophthalmology data (numerator). Metro Auckland Primary Healthcare Organisation (PHO) data for people coded as diabetic who are enrolled with a metro Auckland PHO as of 31 March 2019 (denominator).

While the current diabetic retinal screening rate in Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs is well below the 90% Ministry of Health target the DHBs are undertaking a number of activities to improve equity of coverage and work towards achieving the 90% Ministry of Health target. These activities include:

1. A data match between the DHB diabetic retinal screening and ophthalmology data and the metro Auckland PHOs data for those enrolled and coded as diabetic. This data match allows us to better understand and target the unscreened population. This will be an on going quality improvement activity to monitor improvements in coverage for Māori and overall coverage.
2. Working with both PHOs and diabetic retinal screening providers to increase coverage for Māori and overall coverage. Through the data match project, PHOs will receive regular lists of people enrolled with their practices who need to be screened which will support re-engaging these people back into diabetic retinal screening services.
3. Identifying additional community locations where diabetic retinal screening clinics can be held to help improve access for those with diabetes who are not known to the diabetic retinal screening services. Additionally, there is an opportunity to extend the opening hours of current sites including early mornings, late nights and more frequent weekend clinics
4. Implementing a single diabetic retinal screening IT system across metro Auckland diabetic retinal screening providers to improve data capture and support improved reporting.
5. Updating patient letters and marketing material to support the engagement of primary care, providers, people with diabetes and their family/whānau with screening
6. Auckland and Waitematā DHBs are planning the implementation of a new retinal screening model of care to better support participation in diabetic retinal screening.
7. Counties Manukau Health have recruited a Retinal Screening Health Support worker to proactively engage with people with diabetes in the community and raise the profile and importance of regular eye checks.

A single consistent data set is being provided here for Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs current results. We recommend that any further queries arising from this data be address to the relevant DHB.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive

