

Health Care Professionals

DIABETES RETINAL EXAMS

Fact Sheet

August 2009



Recommending Diabetic Retinal Exams to CIGNA participants can lead to early detection and treatment of diabetic retinopathy and can help prevent vision loss.

The 2009 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) rates for diabetes retinal exam results indicate that on average only 58% of individuals with diabetes received documented timely retinal eye exams and show little improvement year to year. Medical records analysis indicates that 76% of patient records have **no** documentation of testing. Ongoing better communications between eye care professionals and primary care physicians may help improve these statistics. Through coordinated efforts, delays in treatment can be prevented and poor health outcomes averted.

Additionally, most Diabetes Retinal Exams are a covered **medical benefit** for CIGNA participants who are diagnosed with diabetes. By receiving a Diabetes Retinal Exam, your patient receives the full benefit to which they have access. You can verify benefits and eligibility on the secure CIGNA for Health Care Professionals website, www.cignaforhcp.com, or by calling the Customer Service Center at 1.800.88CIGNA (882.4462).

CIGNA has developed tools that can aid in the exchange of clinical information throughout the continuum of care:

- Continuity and Coordination of Care [information](#);
- Ophthalmology/Optometry Continuity and Coordination [Template](#);
- Diabetes [Flow Sheet](#); and

To view state specific Diabetes Retinal Exam HEDIS results, click on www.cignaforhcp.com (Resources > Being a CIGNA HealthCare Provider > Quality Initiatives > Continuity and Coordination of Care).

CIGNA is committed to supporting the delivery of quality health care to your patients by providing information that can help you manage patient care more effectively. We appreciate your efforts to improve the health of your patients with CIGNA coverage.

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CGLIC has acquired the business of Great-West Healthcare.