

Victoria House
Princes Road
FERNDOWN
Dorset BH22 9JR

Telephone: 01202 851286
Mobile: 07976 975753

E-mail: Lynne.Lacey@dorset-pct.nhs.uk
www.dorset-pct.nhs.uk

DORSET DIABETIC EYE SCREENING PROJECT (DDESP) PROGRESS REPORT – NOVEMBER 2007

ORGANISATION

The Executive Group of the DDESP has continued to meet on a regular basis, chaired by Mr Denis Elkin, the Project Director. The members are: Dr Wendy Gatling, Clinical Director; Mrs Lynne Lacey, Project Manager; Mr Rob Dawson, IT Project Manager; and Mr Steve Taylor, Optometric Advisor.

SCREENING LOCATIONS AND COVERAGE

There are currently 46 optometry practices participating in the scheme as well as DDESP-run clinics at Swanage and Dorset County Hospitals. A questionnaire was sent to each practice in October to ascertain the number of appointments being offered per week, the time to the next free appointment and any waiting list. The result showed that the overall capacity in the county meets the needs of the population with diabetes and there is a reasonable match in each area ie North, West, East, South to meet the needs of patients. This will be refined during 2008 through discussion with existing practices and consideration of applications from other optometry practices.

Specific coverage issues

Weymouth: the three practices in Weymouth became operational in June but each of them started with quite a large waiting list of patients as no digital service had been available in Weymouth until that time. Patients were encouraged by local GPs and the DDESP screening office to attend the DDESP clinic in Dorchester in order to be seen sooner and many did take this opportunity. In September, the waiting list issue in Weymouth was reviewed by DDESP and, as a result, Specsavers set up a large number of additional clinics starting from October. Additional clinics staffed by DDESP screeners were run at Scrivens in October and November. Scrivens will be providing additional clinics run by their own staff from December. A further review of this will take place in January.

Sherborne: Scrivens started screening in July and therefore has similar waiting list issues to Weymouth. Scrivens will be running additional clinics from December. The camera at Robert Frith in Yeovil became operational in September and waiting times are much shorter. DDESP is encouraging patients to look at this alternative.

Swanage: additional capital funding was made available in order to purchase a camera for Swanage Hospital where there was no local optometry service available. The first clinic was run in October and there were some technical difficulties during that clinic although all patients were

screened. These are now resolved and clinics will resume in late November. The long term plan is to hold one session per month but this may be increased in the short term.

Central Poole: there continued to be a high demand for screening in Poole town centre even though both the screening office and the town centre optometrists have been encouraging patients to look at attending one of the practices outside of the town centre where waits for appointments are shorter. Following discussions with DDESP, Scrivens has now installed a camera in Poole and screening will start later in November. There was additional pressure on the service over the summer due to lack of availability of optometrists and a DDESP screener provided a weekly clinic during October and November at Specsavers in order to alleviate this.

Broadstone: Scrivens discontinued screening over the summer but will recommence later this month which will make two practices in the area.

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

The implementation of the project IT systems have remained a significant challenge to the project team over the past months. This is being met as the team continues to meet monthly.

Screening Software

The capturing of images and grading is being undertaken using Orion software in 34 practices with a further 5 practices changing to Orion during November. The remaining practices have various technical issues still to be resolved that are not directly related to the Orion software but the practices continue to provide a screening service using the interim system of CD or anonymised email transfer. Orion is being used for the joint ophthalmologist/diabetologist/screener (MDT) meetings in Poole and Dorset County Hospitals where patient images are reviewed for possible referral for treatment. It is anticipated that Bournemouth MDT meetings will adopt the Orion software in the next month. Ophthalmology sessions held in the Diabetes Centre at Poole are set up using Orion and this process will be discussed with consultants from the other acute trusts at the Dorset wide MDT meeting in December.

The images and grading reports of the many thousands of patients screened digitally prior to the changeover to Orion continue to be imported into the system and this work should finish in the new year.

Database for Call/Recall

The Graphnet system is extracting the diabetic register from the majority of the 104 GP practices and matches this against the Exeter database. Those that are not yet extracting include those practices using Emis PCS, Exeter and Microtest. In order for Graphnet to extract from the Emis PCS practices, the new Emis Event Engine needs to be operational and this is now unlikely to happen until 2008. The DDESP has therefore set up a Miquet query which has extracted the information from one Emis PCS practice and this will be uploaded into Orion later in November. If this proves a satisfactory temporary solution, the same method will be used for the other practices where Graphnet is currently unable to extract and this method will continue until such time as the Graphnet extract is able to function correctly in these practices. A similar query will be used to extract those patients registered with Dorset GPs who live outside of the county where there is currently no Exeter match. Many of these patients have been called by the optometrist or have self-referred and have been manually added to the database. There have been issues with the database not updating in the way that is expected and a further full download of the Exeter system will take place later this month followed by a full extract (rather than an extract of the changes) for each GP practice. It is hoped that these two actions will resolve this problem and updating will then take place automatically.

Optometrist Hardware and Broadband Installations

All practices have had hardware and broadband installed. However, there are some technical issues within a few practices relating to the broadband installation that DDESP is still working to resolve. Those practices are continuing to screen patients and send in images on CD Rom.

COMMUNICATION

Recall

Recall letters to patients were started in July. Patients are sent a reminder letter and a leaflet giving details of the scheme which includes a list of the participating optometry practices. The leaflet has been reprinted with updates following feedback from patients and will be updated and reprinted again in December. By the end of this month, recall letters will have been sent to all eligible patients on the database who are due or overdue screening up until mid December 2007. Letters have also been sent to all those patients where the last screening date was not available from secondary care records. Those patients who are due or overdue for screening who are not yet on the database but will be added through the Miquet query system will be sent reminder letters as soon as their details are available.

Results

Results letters to GPs generated by Orion were sent out starting in September for all screening that took place from June 2007 onwards. Results letters to patients were started at the same time but the wording of some of the letters (based on the NSC recommendations) has caused some concerns amongst patients and the templates are being rewritten by a small working group. The electronic feed of results back to GP practices is being progressed and various options for feeding this information directly into GP practice systems are being evaluated and the selected option will then be piloted during the spring before full implementation. DDESP is having discussions with the IT providers in order to expedite a method whereby the Diabeta3 system in secondary care can pick up the screening results directly from the server.

Patient and Public Involvement

A Stakeholders meeting was held on 20 June 2007 and a further meeting is scheduled for 23 January 2008.

SECONDARY CARE

The Dorset-wide Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) continues to meet six-monthly to discuss progress and plans as well as clinical items relating to grading of images and patient care pathways. The meeting is attended by consultant diabetologists and ophthalmologists from the three acute trusts, retinal screener graders and representatives from the nursing, business management and clerical teams from the acute trusts as well as two optometrists, a local GP and a representative from Public Health. The next meeting will be held in early December 2007.

TRAINING FOR STAFF INVOLVED IN SCREENING AND GRADING

Software Training

Orion training took place in group sessions for optometrists over the summer and our local IT trainer has been visiting each practice to provide training on the appointment and clinic set ups for the administration teams. The IT trainer has attended many of the first clinics run in each practice to support both the administration team and the optometrist. Support has also been provided to secondary care consultants as required.

National Certification in Diabetic Retinopathy

The training programme for the City and Guilds National Certification in Diabetic Retinopathy is being managed for Dorset participants by a local training organiser. All staff undertaking capture or grading and those involved in the administration of the programme are required to achieve the certificate within two years. The first group of 20 optometrists have already submitted several units. The next group of 20 optometrists and screeners will start the training in December 2007. The Dispensing Opticians attended a seminar in November and will be undertaking the specific

module relating to capture of images over the next three months with the balance of the units being undertaken later in 2008. Further groups will commence during 2008.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The National Screening Committee has appointed regional assessors for quality assurance and the assessors will be visiting programmes over the next 18 months. The assessor for our programme will be David Taylor, former screener and programme manager for the Royal Devon and Exeter programme.

EXCLUSIONS FROM SCREENING

According to the previously issued guidance, GPs have been completing exclusion forms for appropriate patients and submitting to the screening office. Patients under the care of ophthalmology for diabetic eye disease are also temporarily excluded from the screening programme.

WEBSITE

The website continues to be developed and now includes a Professional Zone with password access for use by clinicians. www.dorsetdiabeticeyescreening.co.uk

DORSET DIABETIC EYE SCREENING OFFICE

The office is staffed daily by a clerical team and an answerphone message may be left out of hours. Contact details are:

Dorset Diabetic Eye Screening Office
Diabetes Centre, Poole Hospital, Longfleet Road, Poole BH15 2JB

Telephone: 01202 442637

Email: eyescreening.queries@poole.nhs.uk

Lynne Lacey
Project Manager
Dorset Diabetic Eye Screening Programme