

DORSET DIABETIC EYE SCREENING PROJECT (DDESP) PROGRESS REPORT – MAY 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.

IT

The DDESP has continued to face ongoing challenges with the various IT systems over the past months and the project team has worked hard to overcome these. The Project Team continues to meet monthly with all the IT Providers and the IT team at Poole Hospital. The IT support for Diabetes for Bournemouth and the DDESP IT trainer also attend these meetings.

Screening Software

Orion screening software is now installed in secondary care and in 37 of the 45 optometry practices participating in the scheme. The delay in installation in the remaining practices has been mainly due to late purchase and installation of cameras or practices undertaking some remodelling of premises. The first clinics using Orion were run in Poole in early May and some adjustments to the system have taken place as a result of this. The diabetic eye clinic sessions for Bournemouth Hospital are now on the system and it is planned to start running clinics using Orion during June. The clinics for Dorchester Hospital will follow shortly thereafter.

The screening dates of the several thousand patients that were screened using the interim system in the past few months have been entered into the Orion system so that these patients are not called again. The images and grading reports of those patients will be imported into Orion over the next three months so that the historical information is available to clinicians.

Database for Call/Recall

The Graphnet system is extracting the diabetic register from the majority of the 103 GP practices. Those that are not yet extracting include those with patients across the borders and those practices using Emis PCS, Exeter and Microtest. The latter relate to technical issues with those companies and these are currently being resolved. Graphnet produces a twice weekly report to DDESP giving details of all practices where there have been any problems with the extract and the actions taken to resolve these. There are some technical issues that have arisen but the majority of the “failures” are due to the extract PC being turned off by the practice overnight. This

extract is being combined with the secondary care extracts and the Dorset Exeter registration system to form the disease register. Approval has now been received from the Caldicott Guardians from Somerset, Wiltshire, Hampshire and Devon which will allow access to the Exeter registrations for those counties which are required for border GP practice lists. The database feed into the Orion screening software system is now live. Some additional work is being undertaken by the project team to cleanse the data.

Recall

It is planned to start sending recall letters to patients in June. The recall letter will include an information leaflet and details of participating optometry practices.

Results

Results letters generated by Orion will start to be sent to patients and GPs during June. A letter concerning the transition to the new results system will be sent to all GP practices in early June. The electronic feed of results back to GP practices is being progressed and will be implemented into a small number of test practices during the summer. The electronic feed of results back to Diabeta3 in secondary care is currently being explored.

Optometrist Hardware and Broadband Installations

There are a very small number of practices where the DDESP hardware and broadband are yet to be installed. This is mainly due to late purchase of cameras and remodelling.

Software Training

The Orion training for hospital consultants, nurses and clerical teams took place at the end of April. Training sessions for optometry practices have been taking place during May and will continue in June. Following the training, the practices are setting up their clinics and are going live on Orion in a phased manner during May, June and July in order that DDESP can provide appropriate support.. A local IT trainer has been seconded to the project in order to provide support and assistance to individual sites when the Orion software is live, both in person and by telephone. This trainer will attend hospital clinics as required in the initial live stages to support consultants and their teams.

Funding

Capital funding is being held at Dorset PCT and is being released in staged payments. A bid for additional capital funding for the increased number of optometry practices and the additional costs of providing an image capture service at Dorset County Hospital was successful.

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 and a representative from Public Health.

OPTOMETRISTS

There are currently 34 practices operational using a digital imaging system with a further 10 due to be operational over the next month. Under the "interim system" the optometrist grading report forms and images are being sent to Poole Hospital by email or CD Rom for second disease grading. As practices go live on Orion, this system will be discontinued. The list of practices is available on the website and is updated regularly. A supply of hard copies of the current list have been sent to all hospital diabetes centres and are available to GP practices, particularly for those patients who do not have internet access

Specific coverage issues

Weymouth and Sherborne: there is currently no operational service in Weymouth or Sherborne. There are three optometry practices in Weymouth and one in Sherborne (plus one in Yeovil) planning to provide the service. Each of the practices has had difficulties with implementing the service for a variety of reasons that were outside the control of the DDESP. We have been working with the practices to help them overcome these delays and anticipate that Specsavers and Scrivens in Weymouth and Scrivens in Sherborne should be able to start screening in mid June.

Dorchester: Specsavers in Dorchester are currently screening between 20 and 35 patients per week depending on the availability of the screener. However, the wait for an appointment was at one point more than two months. The weekly sessions at Dorset County Hospital (DCH) run by Project retinal screeners will be starting in mid June and this should reduce the waiting time at Specsavers quite quickly. This clinic is a DDESP clinic managed through the screening office using space at DCH in order to provide an additional screening location in the Dorchester area. Patients from the south and north of Dorchester are currently also using Specsavers and this should decrease as soon as Weymouth, Sherborne and Yeovil are operational.

Swanage: the Project is currently in discussion with Swanage Hospital about the possibility of providing a monthly screening session starting at the end of the summer for those patients who find it difficult to travel to nearby Wareham.

Central Poole: there has been a great deal of pressure on the two Poole town centre practices during the first part of this year. The screening office is encouraging patients to look at attending one of the practices outside of the town centre where waits for appointments may be shorter. We anticipate that when the recall system starts in June and patients have the list of participating practices easily to hand they may make choices based on waiting times as well as geographical location.

PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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

TRAINING

The training programme for the City and Guilds National Certification in Diabetic Retinopathy is being managed for Dorset participants by a local training organiser. Following the success of the November and December evening seminars for an initial group of 20 participants, further seminars were run in January and February to address the other units required to receive certification. All staff undertaking capture or grading and those involved in the administration of the programme are required to achieve the certificate within two years. Many of the 20 participants have submitted several units to the City and Guilds for assessment. The training programme plans will be reviewed in June and it is anticipated further seminars will be set up in the autumn. DDESP will write to all participating staff within the optometry practices and in secondary care to make them aware of the plans.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

No further details are yet available as to the plans of The National Screening Committee relating to external quality assurance.

EXCLUSIONS FROM SCREENING

Following an audit by two GPs and discussions between the Clinical Director and the members of the Dorset-wide MDT, guidance has been issued to all GPs as to the criteria for excluding Dorset patients from screening. The Exclusions document and the forms for excluding patients are available on the GP section of the website.

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:

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