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| **Private & Confidential**  Practice Manager  Via email  July 2020 | |  |

Dear Practice Manager

**RE: DIABETIC EYE SCREENING**

We are pleased to let you know that we are resuming diabetic eye screening again in line with national guidance. We have started inviting those people at higher risk of sight loss using a national risk stratification tool, this will mean some of your patients may experience a longer wait for their appointment than normal; we will be communicating with patients in due course. However, in light of COVID-19 and the increased infection control measures we have had to put in place to resume safely and protect staff and patients, we are required to limit the number of venues we screen at and keep travel to a minimum.

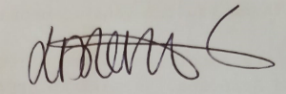
As a result we have established clinics in locations near to your practice that have good access to transport links (buses, parking, volunteer transport). These locations have been chosen because they are close to several surgeries and villages and will see patients from any GP surgery, meaning we can offer far more appointment choice. Appointments can now be changed or cancelled on line via a weblink, without the need to contact the administration call centre (although this number is still available to those without web access). This enables more flexibility to get appointments at a suitable date and time and so reduce non-attendance.

We recognise this might not be ideal but we will be closely monitoring and will review how things have gone in 9 months’ time. We will be advising service users of the change of venue in their next appointment letter, and also signposting them to volunteer transport schemes should these be required.

If you have any questions, I am more than happy to speak with you. Details of the new screening venue linked to your practice (where applicable) are detailed in the email and the map sent direct to your practice manager.

Many thanks for your continued support of this important service for people with diabetes.

Yours sincerely



**Louise Stevens**

Programme Manager, BSW DESP

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