

Background

- Diabetic eye disease is a leading cause of irreversible blindness in Australian adults.
- The number of Australians affected by diabetes is expected to double in the next decade
- Up to 98% of blindness from diabetes can be prevented by early detection and treatment
- 37% of Indigenous adults have diabetes, up to 8 times higher than other Australians
- Diabetic eye disease accounts for 12% of the vision loss in Indigenous Australians and 14 times more blindness from it
- Only 20% of Indigenous people have had the recommended annual retinal examination in the last year

Conclusion

- Diabetic eye disease is a condition that is preventable and treatable
- Early detection and timely treatment are critical in preventing blindness
- New resources available for detection of diabetic eye disease
- Need for increased awareness of health professionals about diabetic eye care
- The new MBS items for retinal photography creates opportunity for more Indigenous people with diabetes to undergo diabetic eye screening
- All Indigenous people with diabetes should have an eye check every year

The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision



- A sector-endorsed, whole-of-system policy framework
- Designed to close the gap in Indigenous eye health
- 35 of the 42 recommendations of the Roadmap address diabetic eye care
- To bring about long-term, sustainable solutions

Educational Modules and Health Promotion Resources on Diabetic Eye Disease

- A number of educational modules are available for diabetic eye disease screening, assessment, grading and treatment
- 'Check Today, See Tomorrow' health promotion resource kit developed with remote, rural and urban communities

Contains:

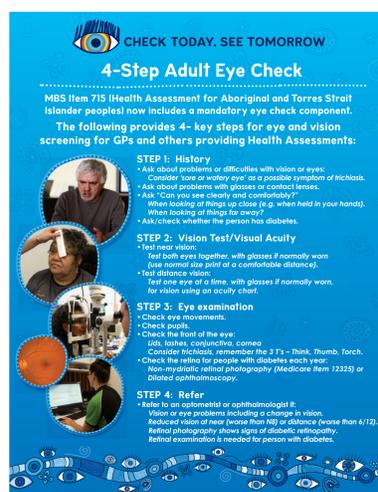
- Flipcharts
- Brochures
- Posters
- Multimedia resources
- Online training course/modules



**CHECK TODAY,
SEE TOMORROW**

MBS Item 715

- Annual health assessments for Indigenous people now include a mandatory eye health check
- The 4-Step Adult Eye Check can be used by GPs and health practitioners to screen vision
- Patients with diabetes require retinal examination each year
 - retinal photography
 - referral to optometry or ophthalmology



'Check Today, See Tomorrow'

These resources are free and available online
Visit www.iehu.unimelb.edu.au for more information



New MBS Items for Retinal Photography

- MBS Items numbers for non mydriatic retinal photography for people with diabetes will commence on 1 November 2016
- MBS Item Number 12325 for Indigenous people - every year
- MBS Item Number 12326 for mainstream people - every 2 years
- \$33.8 million has been allocated over 4 years to support use of the Items
- \$5.1 million over 3 years for new equipment and training primarily for AMS
- Item number is for primary care (Medical practitioners or specialists providing primary glycaemic management)
- The item requires measurement of visual acuity, retinal photography and grading of images for diabetic eye disease
- All patients with poor vision or diabetic retinopathy to be referred to optometry or ophthalmology for management



PROTECT

PREVENT

PROMOTE