Tele-retinal imaging has been shown to be a convenient and effective way of screening for diabetic eye disease known as diabetic retinopathy.

Special cameras are used to take images of the lining inside the eye (retina).

These images are then sent to an optometrist who reads the images and decides if you need further examination.

To reduce your risk of vision loss from diabetes, regular eye examinations are important. Everyone with diabetes should have a tele-retinal screening or dilated eye exam every 1 or 2 years.

What is Tele-retinal Imaging?

Diabetic Retinopathy Screening is a Partnership of:
Cape Fear HealthNet
Cape Fear Memorial Foundation
MedNorth Health Center

Referring Agencies:
- Cape Fear Clinic
- Coastal Horizons
- Good Shepherd Center
- MedNorth Health Center
- New Hanover Regional Medical Center Physician Group
- New Hope Clinic
- Wilmington Health Access for Teens

Now offered through Cape Fear HealthNet with funding from the Cape Fear Memorial Foundation
Why is it Important?
Poor blood sugar control damages the small blood vessels in the lining of the eye (retina). Blood may leak from the vessels and can cause swelling in the retina. Permanent damage may occur and it could lead to loss of vision or blindness.

How to Schedule for Imaging
Low income, uninsured persons need to talk with your primary care provider to determine if this screening is right for you.

Who should have Tele-retinal Imaging?
- Diabetics with no history of diabetic retinopathy
- Diabetics who have not had any laser treatment for retinopathy
- Even if you have no new eye or vision problems, you should be examined

Worried about the wait?
Don’t be!
Most imaging is completed in less than 30 minutes, and only some people need dilation.

What’s Next?
After your images are taken, an eye specialist will review them and determine next steps.

Remember:
Tele-retinal imaging does not replace a dilated eye exam. It is only a good way of screening for diabetic retinopathy.

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Diabetes is a major cause of blindness in American adults. But with regular screening, you can prevent major vision loss.