

Communication with the Physician Managing Ongoing Diabetes Care

*This measure is to be reported for all patients aged 18 years and older with diabetic retinopathy (in either one or both eyes) — a minimum of **once** per reporting period.*

Measure description

Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy who had a dilated macular or fundus exam performed with documented communication to the physician who manages the ongoing care of the patient with diabetes mellitus regarding the findings of the macular or fundus exam at least once within 12 months

What will you need to report for each patient with diabetic retinopathy for this measure?

If you select this measure for reporting, you will report:

- Whether or not you performed a dilated macular or fundus exam which included documentation of the level of severity of retinopathy and the presence or absence of macular edema

If the dilated macular or fundus exam was performed (as described above), you will then need to report:

- Whether or not you communicated¹ the findings of the dilated macular or fundus exam to the physician managing the patient's diabetic care

What if this process or outcome of care is not appropriate for your patient?

There may be times when it is not appropriate to communicate the findings of the dilated macular or fundus exam, due to:

- Patient reasons (eg, patient declined, economic, social, religious, other patient reason) OR
- System reasons²

In these cases, you will need to indicate which reason applies, and specify the reason on the worksheet and in the medical chart. The office/billing staff will then report a code with a modifier that represents these valid reasons (also called exclusions).

¹Communication may include: Documentation in the medical record indicating that the results of the dilated macular or fundus exam were communicated (eg, verbally, by letter) with the clinician managing the patient's diabetic care OR a copy of a letter in the medical record to the clinician managing the patient's diabetic care outlining the findings of the dilated macular or fundus exam.

²The system reason exclusion may be used if a clinician is asked to report on this measure but is not the clinician providing the primary management for diabetic retinopathy.