



PUBLIC
HEALTH
FOUNDATION
OF INDIA



THE QUEEN ELIZABETH
DIAMOND JUBILEE TRUST

Hyderabad Diabetic Retinopathy Declaration

Agreed at the National Diabetic Retinopathy Summit 12th-14th April 2014

Stakeholders from the Government, the private sector, NGOs, International agencies and professional organizations agree to work together to develop and implement a national plan for control of diabetic retinopathy (DR) in India, over a five year period. The overall objective of this plan is to reduce the prevalence of avoidable blindness caused by DR. This will be achieved by augmenting, scaling up and coordinating current efforts across the country. Best practice models will be developed based on existing evidence from both within and outside India and the experiences will be shared with other countries of the Commonwealth.

It was agreed that DR is an increasing problem with potentially adverse public health, social and economic consequences and that concerted action is needed now. It was agreed that the best way forward is to work together, through collaborative and coordinated efforts at the national and local levels between all stakeholders and across sectors. The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust (the Trust) will support specific aspects of the plan which should be evaluated for evidence of sustainability within five years. It was agreed that the plan should incorporate the priorities set out below.

Year 1:

- Set up a National DR Task Force to undertake advocacy, awareness generation and support activities central to the success of the program including the endorsement of national guidelines on the screening and management of DR.
- Use the findings of the situational analysis completed in 2014 to identify existing gaps and ensure they are addressed in the delivery of DR services in the public, not-for-profit and the private sector.
- Agree criteria to identify strategies to a) strengthen existing services wherever possible and b) start new services where appropriate.
- Foster collaboration between physicians and their diabetic care teams, ophthalmologists and their eye care teams and civil society to ensure that DR services are integrated into relevant government programmes for control of Non-Communicable Diseases, and Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment.
- Develop and deliver an advocacy and communication plan for policy change and to generate awareness for different audiences.
- Work with the Central and State Governments to identify priority regions for program implementation.

Years 2 to 5

- Undertake advocacy for health system strengthening, working with WHO, IAPB, INGOs, VISION2020 India, the National Health Mission and others to ensure that a sustainable screening and management modality for DR is fully integrated into the government of India's policies for the control of non-communicable diseases;
- Develop, test, deliver and evaluate an educational package for different professional groups, including web-based distance learning modules, for evidence-based practice and skills transfer for the prevention and treatment of DR;
- Develop, test, deliver and evaluate different approaches which support people with diabetes to improve their control of diabetes;
- Establish an online reading and grading centre for DR;
- Develop, deliver, monitor and evaluate comprehensive integrated models for prevention of avoidable blindness due to DR in at least 10 districts in different geographical locations;
- Use technology (smartphones, affordable imaging systems, internet and cloud technology) to deliver services, transfer skills, collect data and educate clients;
- Design, pilot, deliver and evaluate a Health Management Information System that can be integrated with the National program for the Control of Blindness, and the National program for Non-Communicable Diseases;
- Support the public awareness activities being implemented by the government of India and other stake holders for the prevention, detection and management of diabetes;
- Develop and maintain a dedicated website for professionals, patients and the general public;
- Develop, implement and evaluate a media facilitation centre at PHFI to promote the active engagement of the media;
- Conduct operational research to develop and refine best-practices with dissemination through publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, monographs and the media;
- Document lessons learnt and disseminate evidence-based information for replication, both nationally and globally.

The 12th-14th April 2014 Diabetic Retinopathy Summit was:

Hosted by the Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad (Public Health Foundation of India (phfi.org))

Supported by The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, London, UK (www.Jubileetribute.org)