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## Clinical Champion Update

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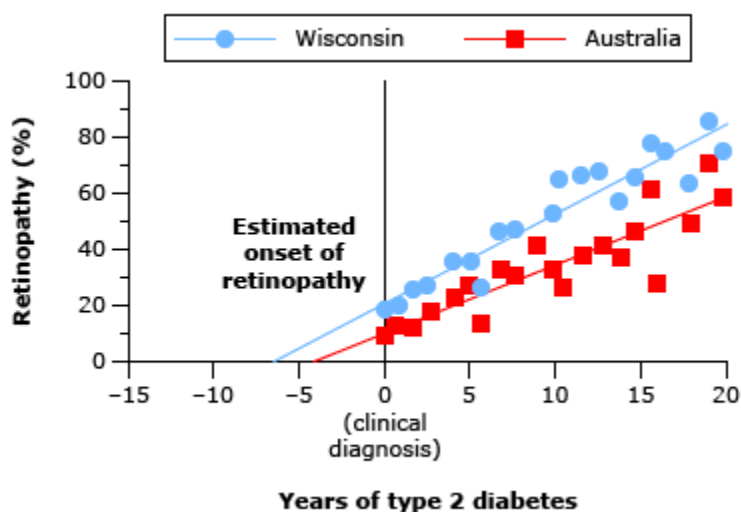
Subject: Diabetes

### DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

Diabetic retinopathy is one of the largest causes of vision loss worldwide and is the principal cause of impaired vision in patients between 25 and 74 years of age. Regular annual screening (ophthalmoscopy with dilated pupils) for those without retinopathy and followup every six months for those with retinopathy followed by appropriate treatment would result in a savings of over 94,000 person-years of sight for patients with type 2 diabetes, and savings of 60 to 80 million US dollars annually in the United States.

The onset of diabetic retinal complications is typically insidious, and patients remain generally asymptomatic and unaware of the disease during the early stages when treatment and medical management are most effective. The graph below illustrates that after 10 years of diagnosis with type II diabetes, there is a 40-60% likelihood of retinopathy.

### ONSET OF DIABETIC RETINOPATHY



Optimizing treatment of systemic conditions in patients with diabetes is essential to prevent vision loss. In patients with diabetes, this includes maintaining both good glycemic and blood pressure control. Annual screening is essential for diagnosing and treating retinopathy, in order to avoid vision loss.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE ANNUAL DIABETIC EYE EXAMS FOR ALL PATIENTS WITH DIABETES. MEET WITH YOUR MA TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO OBTAIN RECORDS FROM OUTSIDE EYE PHYSICIANS AND TO RELABEL REPORTS FROM OPHTHAMOLOGY/OPTOMETRY (NEED TO SAY DIABETIC EYE EXAM TO SATISFY THE QM). THIS IS GOOD CARE FOR OUR PATIENTS, AND ALSO WILL HELP US MEET THIS YEAR'S QUALITY GOALS.**

Trisha Rogers, PA-C and Betsy Green, NP