Continuing Professional Development
Current Issues

As part of the CPD scheme we will distribute at regular intervals one of these Current Issues worksheets. These are designed to provide the members of IMI with a structured CPD activity to help develop your CPD portfolio. It is recognised that this worksheet requires some time spent obtaining and reading a number of publications. As a way of ensuring that the allocated time has been spent on the activities a number of self-assessment exercises (SAEs) have been included. The answers to the SAEs, along with any notes you make or other publications you find, should be kept in your CPD portfolio.

If you have difficulty in obtaining any of the publications contact the CPD Co-ordinator.

Diabetic Retinopathy screening

The photographic screening of patients with diabetes, has become a valuable tool for the Ophthalmologist in detecting early signs of Diabetic Retinopathy (DR). Community DR screening schemes have been running for many years across the UK. Medical photographers using retinal fundus cameras record each retina according to a set protocol of a number of fields (views) determined by the Ophthalmologist. One protocol is the ‘gold standard’ Airlie House seven fields specification that includes the macula and the vascular arcades of each retina to detect early lesions. But many screening schemes use considerably fewer fields.

There are various recording methods for DR screening available to the medical photographer. The two main types of fundus camera used for screening are the mydriatic (mydriasis – using pharmalogical preparations to achieve dilation) and non-mydriatic (using dark adaptation to achieve dilation) cameras. This can be achieved using Polaroid instant prints, 35mm transparencies and digital image capture.

A reading list follows. These articles are a selection from a large amount of literature available on DR screening, particularly from diabetes and ophthalmology sources. You are not expected to read all of them.


**Task:**
Read the following publications and then attempt the SAEs
SAEs

1. Briefly compare the characteristics of the non-mydriatic and mydriatic fundus camera when used for DR screening.

2. Compare the merits of Polaroid, 35mm slides and digital when used in grading the signs of DR in patients. Note the sensitivity of photographic screening compared to ophthalmoscopy for grading DR that is quoted in articles. You should read articles and correspondence from both medical photography journals and medical journals that assess the quality and value of each type of method.

You should record this work in your portfolio. CPD portfolios will be selected at random for review by the CPD Co-ordinator.

If you have any comments (positive or negative) about this worksheet please pass them to the CPD Co-ordinator, we value your feedback and it will help us in developing future worksheets. If you have any suggestions for topics that we should consider for the next worksheet please also pass these to the CPD Co-ordinator.