

# Preventing Blindness Due to Diabetic Retinopathy

Saunders Medical Center - Wahoo, NE

## Objective:

To decrease risk of diabetic patients losing eyesight by providing access to diabetic eye exams during clinic visit.

**Goal:** 62% of Saunders Medical Center's diabetic patients will have a diabetic eye exam completed annually.

## Background:

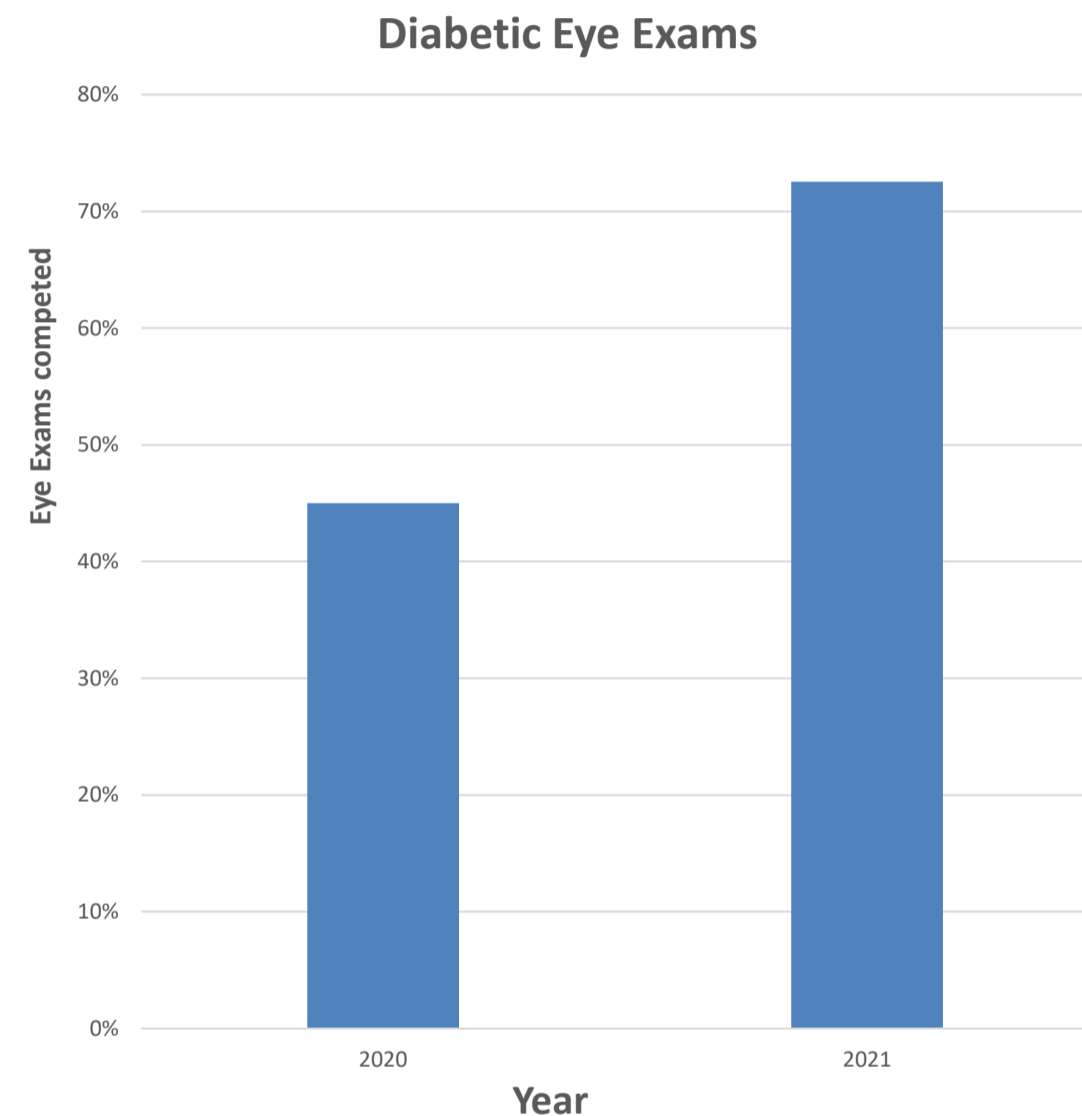
Saunders Medical Center identified patient completion of diabetic eye exams as an opportunity for improvement. The diabetic care team identified that the best time to capture these tests is when the patient is in clinic.

The team reviewed eye exam data, workflows and possible opportunities to improve patient compliance with diabetic eye exams.

## Possible Reasons for Low Compliance:

- Patients not keeping follow-up appointments
- Exams not being sent to primary care providers from eye care providers
- No way to perform these in the office
- Patient finances could be a barrier

## Metrics:



Improved percentage from 45% to 73%

## Actions Taken:

- Purchased RetinaVue® imaging device
- Cost of machine was covered by a donor
- Educated providers and nurses regarding the use of equipment & regarding diabetic retinopathy
- Encouraged referral of patients to Certified Diabetic Educator
- Tracked progress of eye exam completion
- Worked to close care gaps for identified patients

## Analysis:

- Increased patients' understanding of individual health and well-being associated with the risk of diabetic retinopathy
- Increased patient involvement in health care decision-making
- Improved ACO score and points achieved
- Identified patients with diabetic retinopathy who have been referred for treatment

## Next Steps:

- Continue to educate and perform diabetic eye exams in the clinic
- Continue to work on closing gaps in care
- Monitor scorecards and progress

