ACP Supports NQF 0055: "Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Eye Exam (Retinal) Performed." The current evidence supports the benefit of regularly performed vision examinations in reducing vision complications in diabetic adults. Although we support this measure, we suggest that the specifications include all patients over the age of 18 years, as long as for older patients the level of risk for retinopathy is specified. The current American Geriatrics Society guidelines support biennial screening for all adults, including over 75 years of age who are at risk for retinopathy. Patients with late onset diabetes who maintain good control are extremely unlikely to get retinopathy in their lifetimes. The frequency of vision exam should be based on clinical risk. Additionally, there is potential for overuse if a physician cannot obtain confirmation of a previous eye exam during the calendar year.

Date Reviewed: April 27, 2015