

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NewView Oklahoma brings awareness to the potential eye health risks of diabetes
November is Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – November is Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month which educates the public on the effects of diabetes on vision, types of diabetic eye disease, risk factors and treatment options.

According to the American Diabetes Association, approximately 446,000 people in Oklahoma have diabetes. An estimated 100,000 have diabetes but don't know it. Diabetes education gives those with the disease a significant advantage, but fewer than 60 percent of people with diabetes have had any formal education on the disease. NewView Oklahoma is eager to change that.

NewView currently offers services that help people who have suffered vision loss as a result from a diabetic eye disease. From a comprehensive eye exam that includes dilation at the low vision clinic to occupational therapy and orientation and mobility training within the patient's home, NewView empowers these individuals to continue living productive lives.

Oftentimes, people don't realize diabetes self-management training is a benefit covered by Medicare and most health plans when provided by a diabetes educator within an accredited, recognized program. NewView Oklahoma will begin offering an accredited program when they move into their new location in early 2019.

"We are excited that our new location will have a space where we can provide education on the risks of diabetic eye disease and blindness," says NewView Oklahoma occupational therapist Marlene Snow. "Those with diabetes can take measures to prevent blindness and we're here to tell them how. We are also here to help those who have already experienced vision loss by helping them adapt and continue living life fully."

More than 8 million Americans have diabetic retinopathy, according to the study, "The Future of Vision: Forecasting the Prevalence and Costs of Vision Problems," from Prevent Blindness. As the rates of diabetes cases grow across the country, so do the projected rates of diabetic eye disease, with a 35 percent increase to 10.9 million by 2032, and a 63 percent increase to 13.2 million by 2050.

“Diabetic retinopathy is the most frequent cause of newly diagnosed blindness in ages of 20 to 74,” says Snow. “Those with diabetes are also at an increased risk of glaucoma, cataracts, and other eye diseases, so we feel it is undeniably necessary to provide accessible education on the topic.”

People who have received diabetes education are more likely to use primary care and preventive services, take medications as prescribed, control their blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol levels and have lower health costs.

NewView Oklahoma is dedicated to empowering individuals who are blind or visually impaired to live life fully and can do that by providing education and rehabilitation services. NewView is currently renovating their new location at 4301 N. Classen Boulevard which will house both the organization’s Oklahoma City rehabilitation clinic and administrative offices beginning in early 2019.

For more information on diabetic eye disease, contact NewView Oklahoma’s rehabilitation services by email at info@newviewoklahoma.org.

About NewView Oklahoma

NewView Oklahoma is a private, not-for-profit organization founded in 1949 with a mission to empower people who are blind and visually impaired to achieve their maximum level of independence through employment, low vision rehabilitation, and community outreach. NewView Oklahoma is the leading employer of the blind and visually impaired individuals in Oklahoma and offers the only comprehensive Low Vision clinics in the state. Visit online at www.newviewoklahoma.org or follow on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#).

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