

Serving
underserved and
uninsured patients
at Connecticut's
largest network of
community
health centers.

Administrative:

635 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860.347.6971

Service Locations:

CHC of Clinton

114 East Main Street
Clinton, CT 06413
860.664.0787

CHC of Danbury

8 Delay Street
Danbury, CT 06810
203.797.8330

CHC of Enfield

5 North Main Street
Enfield, CT 06082
860.253.9024

CHC of Groton

333 Long Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340
860.446.8858

CHC of Meriden

134 State Street
Meriden, CT 06450
203.237.2229

CHC of Middletown

635 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860.347.6971

CHC of New Britain

One Washington Square
New Britain, CT 06051
860.224.3642

CHC of New London

One Shaw's Cove
New London, CT 06320
860.447.8304

CHC of Old Saybrook

263 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860.388.4433

**Dental Center
of Stamford**

141 Franklin Street
Stamford, CT 06901
203.969.0802

Norwalk Smiles

49 Day Street
Norwalk, CT 06854
203.854.9292

www.chc1.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2009

Community Health Center begins innovative eye screenings for diabetic patients

MERIDEN – Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) has begun innovative eye screening for patients with diabetes, utilizing a state-of-the-art camera and a ground-breaking computer program to prevent blindness among underinsured diabetics.

The screenings began this week in CHC's Meriden site at 134 State Street, and are already proving popular. The first day Wednesday was booked solid with seven patients, all of whom have found it difficult to obtain the annual recommended eye exam. The technology used by CHC is portable and in the coming weeks it will be traveling to several of the agency's 12 locations around the state.

The technology platform is a special Canon camera mounted in a movable frame used with a computer software program called EyePACS, which was developed in a partnership with the California HealthCare Foundation and the University of California, Berkeley Optometric Eye Center.

The camera and software combination lets CHC perform low-cost digital screening to identify retinopathy, the leading cause of blindness among working-age adults in the United States.

Digital images from the camera and software can be used to detect a deteriorating retina, which is the group of cells that is the receiving screen that helps the eye "see."

Early detection and treatment of retinopathy can prevent blindness, but nearly half of all diabetics do not receive timely eye examinations to identify the disease. The disease has no symptoms.

"This CHC initiative is an important way to help our more than 3,000 patients with diabetes fight acquired blindness," said Dr. J. Nwando Olayiwola, Chief Medical Officer for CHC. "It also provides high-tech, innovative technology to patients who might not otherwise have access to this important, potentially sight-saving test."

CHC staff has received in-depth training on how to operate the camera

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and use the software. CHC staff take photographs of a patient's retina, upload them to the EyePACS server at UC Berkeley, and alert Yale Ophthalmologists, who have partnered with CHC to deliver this service. The Yale Ophthalmologists, under the leadership of Dr. John Huang, have secure access to EyePACS, which enables them to review the images and provide an electronic consultation to CHC medical providers. Patients who have signs of the disease are referred to a specialist for follow-up care.

The eye screening is a screening and is not meant to replace a patient's normal visit to an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

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