

Dear Colleague

GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

1. **Increase in NHS Eye Examination Fees**
2. **Increase in the NHS Domiciliary Visiting Fees**
3. **Increase in the Pre-registration Supervisors Allowance**
4. **Increase in the Continuing Education and Training Allowance**
5. **Revised Statement**
6. **Supplementary Eye Examination**

Summary

1. This letter advises NHS Boards and Practitioner Services of increases in:

1.1 NHS eye examination fees payable to optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners (OMPs) from 1 April 2008, 1 April 2009 and 1 April 2010;

1.2 NHS domiciliary visiting fees payable to optometrists and OMPs from 1 April 2007;

1.3 pre-registration supervisors allowance for 2007/08; and

1.4 continuing education and training allowance for 2007.

It also advises of the publication of a revision to the Statement and provides clarification on the number of supplementary eye examinations which can be undertaken following a primary eye examination.

8 February 2008

Addresses

For action
Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

For information
Chief Executive,
NHS National Services Scotland

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Background

Increased NHS Eye Examination Fees

2. NHS Boards and Practitioner Services are asked to note that following consultation with representatives of the profession, Scottish Ministers have determined that the NHS eye examination fee which should be paid to:

2.1 optometrists for each NHS primary eye examination for adults aged 60 years and over will be:

2.1.1 £40.00 for examinations carried out on or after **1 April 2008**;

2.1.2 £44.00 for examinations carried out on or after **1 April 2009**; and

2.1.3 £45.00 for examinations carried out on or after **1 April 2010**.

2.2 ophthalmic medical practitioners for each NHS primary eye examination for adults aged 60 years and over will be:

2.2.1 £40.00 for examinations carried out on or after **1 April 2008**. This consists of a fee element of £29.60 and an expenses component of £10.40;

2.2.2 £44.00 for examinations carried out on or after **1 April 2009**. This consists of a fee element of £32.56 and an expenses component of £11.44; and

2.2.3 £45.00 for examinations carried out on or after **1 April 2010**. This consists of a fee element of £33.30 and an expenses component of £11.70.

2.3 The NHS eye examination fee which should be paid to optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners for each NHS primary eye examination for those aged under 60 years will remain at £36.00 from 1 April 2008 and 1 April 2009 and will rise to £37.00 for examinations carried out on or after **1 April 2010**.

2.4 The NHS eye examination fee which should be paid to optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners for each NHS supplementary eye examination will remain at £21.00 from 1 April 2008 and 1 April 2009 and will rise to £21.50 for examinations carried out on or after **1 April 2010**.

Increased NHS Domiciliary Visiting Fee

3. NHS Boards and Practitioner Services are asked to note that the NHS domiciliary visiting fees for optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners, which is payable in addition to the relevant NHS eye examination fee, for NHS domiciliary eye examinations carried out on or after **1 April 2007** are £34.02 for the first and

second patient seen at one visit and £8.52 for the third and subsequent patients seen at the same visit.

Pre-registration Training for Optometrists

4. From **1 April 2007** the allowance paid to supervisors of pre-registration trainees has increased to £2,800. Claims from trainers taking on trainees on or after 1 April 2007 should be paid at the new rate.

Payments for Continuing Education and Training

5. The payment in respect of continuing education and training undertaken by optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners on NHS Board lists will be £447 for 2007. Although the level of payment has been agreed the allowance is not yet claimable. Further guidance will be issued later this year about this payment together with a revision to the Statement and timescale for making claims. No action should be taken regarding the 2007 payment meantime.

The Statement

6. An amendment to the Statement in accordance with regulation 17 of the NHS (General Ophthalmic Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, which bring the increases at paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.2.1 and 3 above into effect, is attached to the Memorandum to this letter.

Supplementary Eye Examinations

7. The supplementary eye examination was introduced to allow further visits for repeat/follow up procedures, eg repeat of visual fields, cycloplegic refraction, referral refinement. The need for a supplementary eye examination is therefore identified at the primary eye examination. A supplementary eye examination cannot at present be undertaken in isolation except where a child under the age of 16 is referred by an ophthalmic hospital for a cycloplegic refraction.

8. Discussions are currently being undertaken regarding changes to the primary and supplementary eye examinations. In the meantime, there may be occasions where multiple supplementary eye examinations are required. A patient may need to return for further repeat/follow up procedures and such supplementary eye examinations can be claimed under GOS provided that the reason for the subsequent supplementary examination falls from both the original primary and supplementary eye examinations. Multiple supplementary eye examinations will be exceptions. At present a new primary eye examination should normally be undertaken for a patient presenting with new signs and symptoms and any subsequent supplementary eye examination carried out as necessary if related to this primary eye examination.

Action

9. NHS Boards are asked to:

9.1 distribute to all optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners on their lists in good time ahead of 1 April 2008, copies of the Memorandum to this letter, which are being sent under separate cover; and

9.2 bring the increased NHS domiciliary visiting fees at paragraph 3 above to the attention of staff concerned with the hospital eye service.

10. Practitioner Services are asked to:

10.1 pay the increased fee for NHS primary eye examinations undertaken for adults aged 60 years and over **on or after 1 April 2008**;

10.2 pay the increased fees for domiciliary visits undertaken **on or after 1 April 2007**;

10.3 pay the increased pre-registration training allowance to supervisors who have taken on trainees **on or after 1 April 2007**; and

10.4 make any backdated payments to optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners by 31 March 2008.

Yours sincerely

DR JONATHAN PRYCE
Deputy Director

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES**

- 1. Increase in NHS Eye Examination Fees**
- 2. Increase in the NHS Domiciliary Visiting Fees**
- 3. Increase in the Pre-registration Supervisors Allowance**
- 4. Increase in the Continuing Education and Training Allowance**
- 5. Revised Statement**
- 6. Supplementary Eye Examination**

1. This Memorandum advises NHS Boards and Practitioner Services of increases in:

1.1 NHS eye examination fees payable to optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners (OMPs) from 1 April 2008, 1 April 2009 and 1 April 2010;

1.2 NHS domiciliary visiting fees payable to optometrists and OMPs from 1 April 2007;

1.3. pre-registration supervisors allowance for 2007/08; and

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It also advises of the publication of a revision to the Statement and provides clarification on the number of supplementary eye examinations which can be undertaken following a primary eye examination.

Increased NHS Eye Examination Fees

2. Following consultation with representatives of the profession, Scottish Ministers have determined that the NHS eye examination fee which should be paid to:

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2.3 The NHS eye examination fee which should be paid to optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners for each NHS primary eye examination for those aged under 60 years will remain at £36.00 from 1 April 2008 and 1 April 2009 and will rise to £37.00 for examinations carried out on or after **1 April 2010**.

2.4 The NHS eye examination fee which should be paid to optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners for each NHS supplementary eye examination will remain at £21.00 from 1 April 2008 and 1 April 2009 and will rise to £21.50 for examinations carried out on or after **1 April 2010**.

3. The increased fee for adults aged 60 years and over for NHS eye examinations undertaken in the months of April and May will be paid retrospectively, ie increased fees for examinations undertaken in April will be paid in May and those undertaken in May will be paid in June.

Increased NHS Domiciliary Visiting Fee

4. The fees payable to optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners, in addition to the relevant NHS eye examination fee, for NHS domiciliary eye examinations carried out on or after **1 April 2007** are £34.02 for the first and second patient seen at one visit and £8.52 for the third and subsequent patients seen at the same visit. Practitioner Services have been asked to make backdated payments.

Pre-registration Training for Optometrists

5. From **1 April 2007** the allowance paid to supervisors of pre-registration trainees has increased to £2,800. Claims from trainers taking on pre-registration trainees on or after 1 April 2007 will be paid at the new rate. Practitioner Services have been asked to make backdated payments.

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together with a revision to the Statement and timescale for making claims. No action should be taken regarding the 2007 payment meantime.

The Statement

7. An amendment to the Statement in accordance with regulation 17 of the NHS (General Ophthalmic Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, which bring the increases at paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.2.1 and 4 above into effect, is attached at the Annex to the Memorandum to this letter.

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8. The supplementary eye examination was introduced to allow further visits for repeat/follow up procedures, eg repeat of visual fields, cycloplegic refraction, referral refinement. The need for a supplementary eye examination is therefore identified at the primary eye examination. A supplementary eye examination cannot at present be undertaken in isolation except where a child under the age of 16 is referred by an ophthalmic hospital for a cycloplegic refraction.

9. Discussions are currently being undertaken regarding changes to the primary and supplementary eye examinations. In the meantime, there may be occasions where multiple supplementary eye examinations are required. A patient may need to return for further repeat/follow up procedures and such supplementary eye examinations can be claimed under GOS provided that the reason for the subsequent supplementary examination falls from both the original primary and supplementary eye examinations. Multiple supplementary eye examinations will be exceptions. At present a new primary eye examination should normally be undertaken for a patient presenting with new signs and symptoms and any subsequent supplementary eye examination carried out as necessary if related to this primary eye examination.

10. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be taken up with your NHS Board.

Scottish Government Health Directorates
8 February 2008

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND)

GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

THE STATEMENT

Scottish Ministers, in exercise of powers conferred on them by Regulation 17 of the National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 ("the 2006 Regulations"), having regard to Section 7(4) of the Health and Social Security Act 1984, after consultation with such organisations as appear to them to be representative of contractors providing General Ophthalmic Services, have determined as follows: -

1. The fees payable to ophthalmic medical practitioners and optometrists for undertaking NHS eye examinations are set out in Appendices A and B;

Scottish Government Health Directorates
February 2008

APPENDIX A

FEES PAYABLE TO OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND OPTOMETRISTS FOR NHS EYE EXAMINATIONS

1. Fees payable for each NHS primary eye examination carried out by an ophthalmic medical practitioner or optometrist:

on or after 1 April 2007£36.00

2. Fees payable for each NHS primary eye examination for adults aged 60 years and over carried out:

on or after 1 April 2008£40.00

3. Fees payable for each NHS supplementary eye examination carried out by an ophthalmic medical practitioner or optometrist:

on or after 1 April 2007£21.00

4. The payments to ophthalmic medical practitioners under paragraph 1, 2 and 3 above are subject to adjustments in respect of superannuation as follows:

a. in the case on an ophthalmic medical practitioner who is participating in the National Health Services Superannuation Scheme, deduction of the appropriate contribution;

b. in the case of an ophthalmic medical practitioner for whom an option under Regulation 78 of the National Health Service (Superannuation) (Scotland) Regulations 1980 contained under V2(2)(a) of the National Health Service Superannuation Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 1995 has been approved, payment of the appropriate allowance.

APPENDIX B

FEES PAYABLE FOR GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICE EYE EXAMINATIONS CARRIED OUT AS DOMICILIARY VISITS BY OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND OPTOMETRISTS

The fees paid to ophthalmic medical practitioners and optometrist for domiciliary visits to carry out eye examinations under General Ophthalmic Services on or after 1 April 2007 shall be:

for a visit to one establishment to undertake an NHS eye examination of one but no more than two patients - £34.02 per patient; or

for a visit to one establishment to undertake an NHS eye examination of more than two patients - £34.02 per patient for the first two patients
- £8.52 per patient for each subsequent patient

NOTE

The fee for a domiciliary visit is paid in addition to the appropriate General Ophthalmic Services eye examination fee.