

Dear Colleague

GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

Increase in NHS Optical Voucher Values, NHS Domiciliary Visiting Fees, Pre-registration Supervisors Allowance, Continuing Education and Training Allowance, & revised form GOS(S)1 and Statement

Summary

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

- NHS optical voucher values and allowances for repairs and replacements from 1 April 2009;
 - NHS domiciliary visiting fees from 1 April 2008;
 - pre-registration supervisors allowance for 2008/09;
 - continuing education and training allowance for 2008;
- and a revised,
- form GOS(S)1 and Statement from 1 April 2009.

2. Details of the above are on the attached Annexes.

Action

3. NHS Boards are asked to:
- urgently distribute copies of the Memorandum, which will be sent to you under separate cover, to optometrists & ophthalmic medical practitioners (OMPs) on their lists;

Addresses

5 March 2009

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

For information

Chief Executive,
NHS National Services Scotland

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- send a copy of the NHS (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2009, which bring the revised voucher values into effect, to optometrists and OMPs on their lists. Optometrists & OMPs with more than one address within a NHS Board area should only be sent one copy of the Regulations. Copies of the amending regulations will be sent to NHS Boards shortly.
 - note that supplies of the revised form GOS(S)1, which can be identified by the revision date 0409, will be sent shortly, for onward distribution to optometrists & OMPs no later than 24 March 2009.
5. Practitioner Services are asked to:
- pay the revised values for optical vouchers presented to suppliers by patients on or after 1 April 2009;
 - pay the increased fees for domiciliary visits undertaken on or after 1 April 2008;
 - pay the increased pre-registration training allowance to supervisors who have taken on trainees on or after 1 April 2008; and,
 - make any backdated payments to optometrists & OMPs as soon as possible after 31 March 2009.
6. If you have any enquiries on the content of this letter, please contact your NHS Board.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Pryce'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DR JONATHAN PRYCE
Deputy Director

**MEMORANDUM TO NHS:
PCA(O)(2009)1
ANNEX A**

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES**

Increase in NHS Optical Voucher Values, NHS Domiciliary Visiting Fees, Pre-registration Supervisors Allowance, Continuing Education and Training Allowance, & revised form GOS(S)1 and Statement

Increase in Optical Voucher Values

1. An increase of two per cent has been made to optical voucher values and supplements from 1 April 2009. The new values apply to vouchers presented to suppliers by patients on or after 1 April 2009. Annexes B and C show details of the revised voucher values.

Increase in the NHS Domiciliary Visiting Fee

2. The increased NHS domiciliary visiting fees for optometrists and OMPs, payable in addition to the relevant NHS eye examination fee, for NHS domiciliary eye examinations carried out on or after 1 April 2008 are £34.87 for the first and second patients seen at one visit and £8.73 for the third and subsequent patients. Practitioner Services has been asked to make backdated payments.

Increase in the Pre-registration Supervisors Allowance

3. The allowance paid to supervisors of pre-registration trainees has increased to £2950 from 1 April 2008. Claims from trainers taking on pre-registration trainees on or after 1 April 2008 will be paid at this new rate. Practitioner Services has been asked to make backdated payments.

Increase in the Continuing Education and Training Allowance

4. The payment in respect of continuing education and training undertaken by optometrists & OMPs on NHS Board lists will be £458 for 2008. Although the level of payment has been agreed it will not be claimable until later this year when further guidance about the payment will be issued. No action on the 2008 payment should be taken meantime.

Revised Form GOS(S)1

5. PCA(O)(2008)3, which remains extant, notified the three year fee agreement in place from 2008/09 to 2010/11 for optometrists & OMPs providing NHS eye examinations.

6. Form GOS(S)1 has been revised to reflect that different fees apply under the fee agreement from 1 April 2009 where a digital photo is and is not taken for people aged 60 and over. The layout of Part 3 of the form has been simplified in response to feedback. Primary and supplementary eye examination claims are now combined at Part 3(E), which also includes a claim option box for taking a digital photo.

7. Supplies of the revised form GOS(S)1, which can be identified by the revision date 0409, will be sent to NHS Boards for onward distribution to optometrists & OMPs, and should be received no later than 24 March 2009. NHS Boards can obtain further supplies from RR Donnelley as normal. Previous versions of GOS(S)1 should not be used from 1 April 2009. Stocks of previous versions should be destroyed after that date.

Revised Statement

8. The Statement, which is provided for in Regulation 17 of the NHS (General Ophthalmic Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, details the fees payable for NHS eye examinations. The revised Statement, at Annex D, has been updated to reflect the different fees applying from 1 April 2009 where a digital photo is and is not taken for people aged 60, and for domiciliary visits on or after 1 April 2008.

Enquiries

9. PCA(O)(2009)1 can be accessed via the SHOW website at <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/publications/publication.asp>. If you have any enquiries on the contents, please contact your NHS Board.

**VOUCHER LETTER CODES AND FACE VALUES
SUPPLY AND REPLACEMENT**

<i>Column 1 Type of optical appliance</i>	<i>Column 2 Letter code</i>	<i>Column 3 Face value of voucher</i>
1. Glasses with single vision lenses of a spherical power of not more than 6 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 2 dioptres.	A	£36.20
2. Glasses with single vision lenses - (a) of a spherical power of more than 6 dioptres but less than 10 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptres; (b) of a spherical power of less than 10 dioptres with a cylindrical power of more than 2 dioptres but not more than 6 dioptres.	B	£55.10
3. Glasses with single vision lenses of a spherical power of 10 or more dioptres but not more than 14 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptres.	C	£80.60
4. Glasses with single vision lenses - (a) of a spherical power of more than 14 dioptres with any cylindrical power; (b) of a cylindrical power of more than 6 dioptres with any spherical power.	D	£182.00
5. Glasses with bifocal lenses of a spherical power of not more than 6 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 2 dioptres.	E	£62.70
6. Glasses with bifocal lenses - (a) of a spherical power of more than 6 dioptres but less than 10 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptres; (b) of a spherical power of less than 10 dioptres with a cylindrical power of more than 2 dioptres but not more than 6 dioptres.	F	£79.70

7. Glasses with bifocal lenses of a spherical power of 10 or more dioptries but not more than 14 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptries.	G	£103.30
8. Glasses with prism-controlled bifocal lenses of any power or with bifocal lenses - (a) of a spherical power of more than 14 dioptries with any cylindrical power; (b) with a cylindrical power of more than 6 dioptries with any spherical power.	H	£200.10
9. Glasses not falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 8 for which a prescription is given in consequence of a testing of sight by an NHS Board.	I	£186.40
10. Contact lenses for which a prescription is given in consequence of a testing of sight by an NHS Board.	J	£52.90 per lens

Supplements

	Old value	New value
Complex lens:		
Single vision	£13.40	£13.70
Bifocal	£33.90	£34.90
Tints/photochromic per lens:		
Single vision	£3.90	£4.00
Bifocal	£4.40	£4.50
Prism per lens:		
Single vision	£11.60	£11.80
Bifocal	£13.90	£14.20
Small glasses:	£58.50	£59.70
Special facial characteristics (HES or NHS Board):	£58.50	£59.70

**MEMORANDUM TO NHS:
PCA(O)(2009)1
ANNEX C**

VOUCHER VALUES - REPAIR

Column 1 Nature of Repair to Appliance	Column 2 Letter Codes – Values								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H f	I £
Repair or replacement of one lens	11.25	20.70	33.45	84.15	24.50	33.00	44.80	93.20	86.35
Repair or replacement of two lenses	22.50	41.40	66.90	168.30	49.00	66.00	89.60	186.40	172.70
Repair or replacement of:									
The front of a frame	11.60	11.60	11.60	11.60	11.60	11.60	11.60	11.60	11.60
a side of a frame	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90
the whole of the frame	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.70

Note

1. Where the small glasses supplement applies, the amount payable for repair of the:

- front of the frame is £52.90
- side of the frame is £28.60
- whole of the frame is £59.70

2. Where more than one repair is made to an optical appliance, the total paid must not exceed the aggregate of the amount for replacing two lenses in the above schedule, and repairs to the part of the frame must not exceed £13.70.

**NHS:
PCA(O)(2009)1
ANNEX D**

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
March 2009

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 (no digital photo taken).....£40.00

on or after 1 April 2009 (digital photo taken)..... £44.00

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.

**NHS:
PCA(O)(2009)1
ANNEX D**

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 2008 shall be:

for a visit to one establishment to undertake an NHS eye examination of one but no more than two patients - £34.87 per patient; or

for a visit to one establishment to undertake an NHS eye examination of more than two patients - £34.87 per patient for the first two patients
- £8.73 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.

Scottish Government Health Directorates
March 2009