

**2016 No. 6**

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (WALES) ACT 2006**

**The National Health Service (Charges for Optical Appliances)  
Directions 2016**

*Made* 31 March 2016

*Coming into force* 1 April 2016

The Welsh Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 128 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006<sup>(1)</sup> and regulation 2(1) of the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 1997<sup>(2)</sup>, makes the following Directions:

**Title, commencement and application**

1.—(1) The title of these Directions is the National Health Service (Charges for Optical Appliances) Directions 2016, and come into force on 1 April 2016.

(2) These Directions apply in respect of the supply of glasses or contact lenses by a Local Health Board, or other persons acting on behalf of a Local Health Board, where the testing of sight leading to the supply of glasses or lenses, or the first such testing, takes place on or after 1 April 2016.

**Interpretation**

2. In these Directions—

“the Act” means the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006;

“actual cost of lenses” means the amount equal to the cost to the Local Health Board, or other persons acting on its behalf, of the purchase of the lenses;

“dispensing cost” means the amount equal to the cost to the Local Health Board, or other persons acting on its behalf, of the dispensing of the lenses; and

“full cost of a frame” means the amount equal to the cost to the Local Health Board, or other persons acting on its behalf, of the purchase of—

in the case of an adult, an adult’s frame; and

in the case of a child, a child’s frame.

**Maximum charge for lenses**

3. —(1) The maximum charge for lenses is an amount equal to—

a) in the case of a single vision lens, £70.00; or

b) in the case of all other lenses, £113.80,

and “appropriate maximum charge” will be construed accordingly.

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(1) 2006 c.42.

(2) S.I. 1997/818.

### **Charge for glasses**

4. (1) The charge payable in respect of the supply of glasses is determined in accordance with the following provisions.

(2) Subject to paragraph (4), where the actual cost of the lenses and the dispensing cost is together less than an amount equal to the appropriate maximum charge, the charge payable is an amount equal to the total amount of—

- a) the actual cost of lenses;
- b) the dispensing cost; and
- c) the full cost of the frame.

(3) Where the actual cost of the lenses and the dispensing cost if together equal to, or greater than the appropriate maximum charge, the charge payable is an amount equal to the total amount of—

- a) the appropriate maximum charge; and
- b) the full cost of the frame.

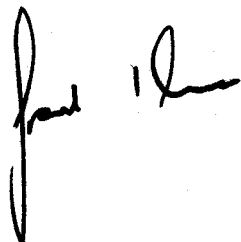
(4) In the case where it is clinically necessary to supply a frame the cost of which is more than the cheapest full cost of a frame in an adult or child's range supplied by the Local Health Board or by other persons acting on behalf of the Local Health Board, the charge payable for the frame is an amount which must be equal to the cost of the cheapest full cost of a frame in the range supplied.

### **Charge for a contact lens**

5. The charge authorised by section 128 of the Act in respect of the supply of contact lenses under the Act is to be £57.00 for each contact lens so supplied.

### **Revocation**

6. The Directions to Local Health Boards 2015(3), which came into force on 1 April 2015, are revoked.



Signed by Dr. Grant L. Duncan, Deputy Director, Primary Care Division, under the authority of the Minister for Health and Social Services, one of the Welsh Ministers

Date: 31 March 2016