

STATEMENT OF GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES REMUNERATION AND FEE DIRECTIONS

The Welsh Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 12(3), 76, 77 and 203(9) and (10) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006⁽¹⁾ (“the 2006 Act”) make the following determination as to the remuneration to be paid to those providing general ophthalmic services and give the following directions in respect of the remuneration to be paid to those providing eye examination services under the National Health Service (Ophthalmic Services) (Wales) Regulations 2023 and other fees payable to those providing these services.

Before making this determination under section 76 and 77 of the 2006 Act in relation to the remuneration to be paid to those providing general ophthalmic services, the Welsh Ministers consulted with the organisation recognised by them as representing contractors providing general ophthalmic services.

Part 1

Title, Commencement and Interpretation

Title, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) The title of these combined directions and determination is the Statement of General Ophthalmic Services Remuneration and Fee Directions (“the Statement and Fee Directions”).

(2) The Statement and Fee Directions come into force on 20 October 2023.

(3) In these Statement and Fee Directions—

“contact lens optician” means a person who is registered as a dispensing optician in the register maintained under section 7 of the Opticians Act 1989 (register of opticians) with a contact lens specialty entry;

“contractor” means a person who has undertaken to provide Primary Ophthalmic Services and whose name is included in the ophthalmic list;

“corporate optician” means a body corporate registered in the register of bodies corporate maintained under section 9 of the Opticians Act 1989⁽²⁾, which is carrying on business as an optometrist;

“CPD” means Continuing Professional Development;

“dispensing optician” means a person who is registered as a dispensing optician in the register maintained under section 7 of the Opticians Act 1989 (register of opticians);

“Eye Examination Services” means the services which a contractor must provide under paragraph 24 of Schedule 4 to the National Health Service (Ophthalmic Services) (Wales) Regulations 2023;

“General Ophthalmic Services” means the services which a contractor must provide under paragraph 23 of Schedule 4 to the National Health Service (Ophthalmic Services) (Wales) Regulations 2023;

(1) 2006 c. 42.

(2) 1989 c. 44.

“GOS” means General Ophthalmic Services;

“Independent Prescribing Optometrist” means a person registered as an optometrist in the register maintained under section 7 of the Opticians Act 1989 (register of opticians) with an independent prescribing speciality entry;

“Local Health Board” means a Local Health Board established in accordance with section 11(2) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006;

“ophthalmic list” means the list defined in regulation 10(2)(a) of the National Health Service (Ophthalmic Services) (Wales) Regulations 2023;

“ophthalmic medical practitioner” means a person recognised under regulation 9 of and Schedule 2 to the National Health Service (Ophthalmic Services) (Wales) Regulations 2023;

“optometrist” means a person registered in the register of optometrists maintained under section 7 (register of opticians) of the Opticians Act 1989;

“optometry collaborative” a group of contractors providing primary ophthalmic services within the geographic area of the same primary care cluster;

“optometric lead” means the person elected by an optometry collaborative to represent it within a primary care cluster;

“patient” means a person for whom a contractor has agreed to provide general ophthalmic services or eye examination services;

“primary care cluster” means a group of health and social care providers that have agreed to work collaboratively to delivery primary care services across a specified geographic area;

“Primary Ophthalmic Services” means, collectively-

- (i) General Ophthalmic Services, and
- (ii) Eye Examination Services.

“relevant optometry collaborative” means the optometry collaborative in whose area the contractor provides primary ophthalmic services;

“WGOS 2 accredited contact lens optician” means a contact lens optician who has been accredited by Health Education and Improvement Wales to undertake elements of the eye examination service.

Part 2

General Ophthalmic Services and Eye Examination Services Fees

General Ophthalmic Services and Eye Examination Services Fees

2. The fee payable to a contractor for providing General Ophthalmic Services is £43.00.

3. The eye examination fees payable to a contractor for providing Eye Examination Services are as follows: WGOS 2 (previously EHEW Band 1) set at £70.00; WGOS 2 (previously EHEW Band 2) set at £53.00; and WGOS 2 (previously EHEW Band 3) set at £26.00 for 2023/24.

Domiciliary visit fees

4. The fees payable to a contractor, for an NHS domiciliary visit carried out by the contractor are—

- (a) £38.27 first and second patients; and
- (b) £9.58 for third and subsequent patients.

Conditions attached to payment of General Ophthalmic Services, Eye Examination Services and domiciliary visit fees

5. A claim for General Ophthalmic Services, Eye Examination Services and domiciliary visit fees, or any part thereof, is only payable if the contractor satisfies the following conditions—

- (a) the contractor must make available to the Local Health Board any information which the Local Health Board does not have but needs, and the contractor either has or could reasonably be expected to obtain, in order to calculate the payment due to the contractor,
- (b) the contractor must maintain accurate records of all General Ophthalmic Services, Eye Examination Services and domiciliary visit activity undertaken, including emergency and urgent eye care, and
- (c) all information supplied by the contractor to the Local Health Board pursuant to or in accordance with this paragraph must be accurate to the contractor's best knowledge and belief.

6. If the contractor breaches any of the conditions in paragraph 5, the Local Health Board may, in appropriate circumstances, withhold payment of, or any part of, a General Ophthalmic Services, Eye Examination Services or domiciliary visit fee that is otherwise payable.

Part 3

CPD Allowance

7.—(1) In this paragraph—

“CPD allowance” means the following sums in respect of the practitioners listed:

Dispensing opticians	£338.10
Contact lens opticians	£459.11
WGOS 2 accredited contact lens opticians	£516.44
Optometrists	£610.63
Independent Prescribing Optometrists	£764.63;

“Medical Retina CPD supplement” means a supplement of £77.00

“Higher Certificate in Glaucoma supplement” means a supplement of £77.00; and

“relevant year” means the year beginning with 1 January 2022 and ending with 31 December 2022.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (8), the Local Health Board must pay a CPD allowance to an optometrist, other than a corporate optician, if the optometrist—

- (a) was included in the ophthalmic list of the Local Health Board to which they make a claim for a CPD allowance for a period of at least 6 months during the relevant year and maintained their professional registration for that period in the relevant year;

(b) has undertaken appropriate continuing professional development during the relevant year; and

(c) complies with sub-paragraphs (10) and (11).

(3) Subject to sub-paragraph (8), the Local Health Board must pay a CPD allowance to an Independent Prescribing Optometrist, other than a corporate optician, if the optometrist—

(a) was included in the ophthalmic list of the Local Health Board to which they make a claim for a CPD allowance for a period of at least 6 months during the relevant year and maintained their professional registration for that period in the relevant year;

(b) has undertaken appropriate continuing professional development relevant to their higher qualification during the relevant year; and

(c) complies with sub-paragraphs (10) and (11).

(4) Subject to sub-paragraph (8), the Local Health Board must pay a Medical Retina supplement to an optometrist holding the College of Optometrists professional certificate in medical retina or professional higher certificate in medical retina, other than a corporate optician, if the optometrist—

(a) was included in the ophthalmic list of the Local Health Board to which they make a claim for a CPD allowance for a period of at least 6 months during the relevant year; maintained their professional registration for that period in the relevant year; and

(b) has undertaken appropriate continuing professional development relevant to their higher qualification during the relevant year; and

(c) examined and appropriately managed patients relevant to their higher qualification; and

(d) complies with sub-paragraphs (10) and (11).

(5) Subject to sub-paragraph (8), the Local Health Board must pay a Higher Certificate in Glaucoma supplement to an optometrist holding the College of Optometrists professional higher certificate in glaucoma, other than a corporate optician, if the optometrist—

(a) was included in the ophthalmic list of the Local Health Board to which they make a claim for a CPD allowance for a period of at least 6 months during the relevant year; maintained their professional registration for that period in the relevant year;

(b) has undertaken appropriate continuing professional development relevant to their higher qualification during the relevant year; and

(c) examined and appropriately managed patients relevant to their higher qualification; and

(d) complies with sub-paragraphs (10) and (11).

(6) Subject to sub-paragraph (8), the Local Health Board must pay a CPD allowance to an ophthalmic medical practitioner if—

(a) during the relevant year their only remunerated medical or optical activity was the conduct of Primary Ophthalmic Services;

(b) they were included in the ophthalmic list of the Local Health Board to which they make a claim for a CPD allowance for a period of at least 6 months during the relevant year and maintained their professional registration for that period in the relevant year;

(c) they have undertaken appropriate continuing professional development during the relevant year; and

(d) they comply with sub-paragraphs (10) and (11).

(7) Subject to sub-paragraphs (8) and (9), the Local Health Board must pay to a contractor a CPD allowance and any applicable Medical Retina or Higher Certificate in Glaucoma supplement, where applicable in respect of—

- (a) each assistant employed by that contractor if the assistant—
 - (i) is an optometrist (other than a corporate optician);
 - (ii) was included in the supplementary list of the Local Health Board to which the contractor makes a claim for a CPD allowance; and
 - (iii) has assisted in the provision of general ophthalmic services and/or eye examination services for a period of at least 6 months during the relevant year and maintained their professional registration for that period for the relevant year; and
 - (iv) has undertaken appropriate continuing professional development during the relevant year;
- (b) each dispensing optician and contact lens optician employed by that contractor if that dispensing optician or contact lens optician—
 - (i) is employed by a contractor included in the ophthalmic list of the Local Health Board to which the contractor makes a claims for a CPD allowance; and
 - (ii) has undertaken appropriate continuing professional development during the relevant year,

and the contractor complies with sub-paragraphs (10) and (11).

(8) Only one CPD allowance, together with any applicable Medical Retina and/or Higher Certificate in Glaucoma supplement, may be claimed in respect of any one person.

(9) Where an assistant or dispensing optician is employed by two or more contractors, the CPD allowance will be paid to the contractor which the assistant or dispensing optician nominates for the purpose of payment of the CPD allowance under this determination.

(10) A claim for a CPD allowance (together with any applicable supplement) must be made in writing on the form approved for this purpose by Welsh Ministers.

(11) A separate claim form must be completed for each CPD allowance (together with any applicable supplement) claimed.

Part 4

Optometry collaborative fees

8.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Local Health Board must pay a contractor the sum of £250 if-

- (a) the contractor is included in that Local Health Board's ophthalmic list, and
- (b) the contractor attends a meeting of the relevant optometry collaborative.

(2) No more than £1,000 may be paid to a contractor under sub-paragraph (1) in any one financial year.

—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Local Health Board must pay a contractor the sum of £2,000 in respect of an assistant employed by that contractor that is elected as an optometric lead by an optometry collaborative to represent it within a primary care cluster.

(2) No more than £2,000 may be paid to a contractor under sub-paragraph (1) in any one financial year.

PART 5
REVOCATIONS

9. The determination of the Minister for Health and Social Services which came into force on 29 December 2022 is revoked.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Casey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Signed by Paul Casey, Deputy Director, Primary and Community Care, under the authority of the Minister for Health and Social Services, one of the Welsh Ministers

Date: 20 October 2023