



Department
of Health &
Social Care

29 March 2018

GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES: NHS SIGHT TEST FEE, NHS OPTICAL VOUCHER VALUES, PAYMENTS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND PRE-REGISTRATION SUPERVISORS GRANT

Summary

I am writing to notify you of:

- 1) The NHS sight test fee and NHS domiciliary fees from 1 April 2018
- 2) Optical voucher values from 1 April 2018
- 3) The Hospital Eye Service charges from 1 April 2018
- 4) Continuing education and training payment for 2017, payable in 2018; and
- 5) Grant payable to supervisors of pre-registration trainees from 1 April 2018;

Please could you bring this information to the attention of all staff dealing with General Ophthalmic Services, the Hospital Eye Service, Optometrists and Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners.

1. NHS sight test fee/NHS domiciliary fee

The NHS sight test fee and NHS domiciliary fees remains unchanged for 2018/19 and payments should continue to be made in accordance with the General Ophthalmic Services Contracts (Payments) Directions 2015, issued on 5 August 2015.

2. NHS Optical Voucher Values

NHS optical voucher values for 2018/19 will remain at the same level as 2017/18 and the relevant Statutory Instrument can be found at: www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi under SI number 325 (2016).

3. Hospital Eye Service

Maximum Charge

From 1 April 2018 the Hospital Eye Service maximum charges, which will continue to be:

£70.00 for single vision lenses; and
£113.80 in any other case.

Charge for Contact Lenses

From 1 April 2018 the charge for contact lenses will continue to be £57.00 per contact lens supplied. The NHS (Charges for Optical Appliances) Directions 2016 remain in force.

4. Payments for Continuing Education and Training

The payment for 2017, in respect of continuing education and training, undertaken by optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners, without another medical appointment (i.e. who do no other remunerative work but the testing of sight), will increase to £551.

Details regarding how to claim the fee later in 2018, will follow.

5. Pre-registration Training for Optometrists

From 1 April 2017 the allowance paid to supervisors of pre-registration trainees will increase to £3,549. Claims from trainers taking on pre-registration trainees on or after 1 April 2018 should be paid at this new rate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hamid Butt', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hamid Butt
Head of Dental & Eye Care Finance