



# SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Department of Health

NHS Management Executive

St Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

## HOSPITAL EYE SERVICE:

- 1. Increase in the NHS Sight Test Fee for Optometrists and Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners from 1 April 1998;**
- 2. Increase in the NHS Domiciliary Visiting Fees for Optometrists and Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners from 1 April 1998;**
- 3. Changes in the NHS Sight Test and Domiciliary Visiting Fees for HC3 Holders**

## Summary

1. This letter advises Health Boards and NHS Trusts of increases in the NHS sight test and NHS domiciliary visiting fees payable to optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners, under General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) provisions, from **1 April 1998**.

## Background

### Increased NHS Sight Tests Fee

2. Health Boards and NHS Trusts are asked to note that, following consultation with representatives of the professions, the Secretary of State has determined that the NHS sight test fee which should be paid to:

- optometrists for NHS sight tests carried out on or after **1 April 1998** is £14.57; and
- ophthalmic medical practitioners for NHS sight tests carried out on or after **1 April 1998** is £14.57. This consists of a fee element of £10.78 and an expenses component of £3.79.

NHS MEL(1999)37

6<sup>th</sup> April 1999

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### Addressees

#### For action:

General Managers, Health Boards

Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

#### For information:

General Manager, Common Services Agency

General Manager, State Hospitals Board for Scotland

General Manager, Health Education Board for Scotland

Executive Director, SCPMDE

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### Enquiries to:

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### **Increased NHS Domiciliary Visiting Fees**

3. Health Boards and NHS Trusts are asked to note that the NHS domiciliary visiting fees for optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners which are payable in addition to the relevant NHS sight test fee are £25.76 for the first and second patients seen at one visit and £6.45 for the third and subsequent patients seen at the same visit. The increased fees should be paid for NHS domiciliary sight tests carried out on or after **1 April 1998**.

### **Changes to the NHS Sight Test and Domiciliary Visiting Fees for HC3 Holders**

4. **From 1 April 1999** entitlement for patients who hold partial exemption certificate HC3 will be calculated using the following amounts:

- a private sight test carried out at an optician's premises up to a maximum of the NHS sight test fee of £14.57;
- a private domiciliary sight test up to the maximum of the NHS domiciliary sight test fee of £40.33.

5. Any enquiries about the content of this letter should be addressed to Mrs June Doig, Room 430, St Andrew's House (Tel: 0131 244 2506).

Yours sincerely

**AGNES ROBSON**  
Director of Primary Care