

Dear Colleague

**GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES (GOS) – COVID-19
RECOVERY PLANNING: PPE REQUIREMENTS AND
SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS**

Summary

1. This letter advises on the following:

- the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that a practice premises must have before it can resume providing face-to-face NHS emergency and essential eye care, and PPE waste disposal arrangements;
- the supply of NHS-provided PPE to community optometry practice premises ahead of the resumption of face-to-face NHS emergency and essential eye care.

Action

2. NHS Boards are asked to urgently copy and issue the Memorandum to this letter to all optometrists, ophthalmic medical practitioners, body corporates and practices on their ophthalmic lists.

Yours sincerely,
Tom Ferris, Deputy Director

17 June 2020

Addresses:

For action
Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information
Chief Executive,
NHS National Services
Scotland

NHS Board Optometric
Advisers

NHS Education for Scotland

Enquiries to:

Dentistry and Optometry
Division
1st Floor East Rear
St Andrews House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Email:

eyecare@gov.scot

**MEMORANDUM TO NHS:
PCA(O)2020(9)**

Summary

1. This Memorandum advises on the following:

- the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that a practice premises must have before it can resume providing face-to-face NHS emergency and essential eye care, and PPE waste disposal arrangements;
- the supply of NHS-provided PPE to community optometry practice premises ahead of the resumption of face-to-face NHS emergency and essential eye care.

PPE

PPE requirements for face-to-face NHS emergency and essential eye care

2. As set out in [Dr Janet Pooley's letter](#) of 12 June 2020, practice owners and Part 1 contractors involved in the provision of General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) from a practice premises should now be actively preparing for resuming face-to-face NHS emergency and essential eye care as part of Phase 2 of the Scottish Government's recovery Route Map.
3. If the First Minister determines on 18 June 2020 that the conditions for entering Phase 2 have been met following the next three-weekly review of lockdown regulations, a precise date for practice premises being able to resume face-to-face NHS emergency and essential eye care, and the associated financial support, will be communicated by Friday 19 June 2020.
4. Before a practice premises can resume providing face-to-face NHS emergency and essential eye care, it must (and continue to) have appropriate PPE as set out in the guidance issued by [Health Protection Scotland](#) (HPS).
5. At the current time, appropriate PPE includes:
 - disposable gloves (single use);
 - disposable plastic aprons (single use);
 - fluid-resistant face masks (type IIR) (sessional use, unless the mask becomes soiled, damaged or uncomfortable);
 - eye/face protection (single use or re-usable eye/face protection or full-face visor or goggles);
 - a plastic breath shield attached to each slit lamp (disinfected between patients). Practices should also consider having shields/guards over fundus camera and Optical Coherence Tomography equipment.

6. It is essential that all practice staff are trained and comfortable in the appropriate use (including donning and doffing) of PPE. Further guidance and training on the appropriate use of PPE should be obtained from [HPS](#). Additional guidance is also available from:
 - NES via the [Turas](#) system;
 - the [College of Optometrists](#).

Waste disposal

7. HPS has recently updated its [guidance for primary care practitioners](#) in relation to waste disposal arrangements for PPE. To summarise, all PPE should be placed in a disposable plastic bag, then placed in a secondary disposal bag, tied and held for 72 hours before being placed in the domestic waste bin.

Supply of NHS-provided PPE to practice premises in advance of providing face-to-face NHS emergency and essential eye care

8. To ensure that all community optometry practice premises have the appropriate PPE before providing face-to-face NHS emergency and essential eye care in Phase 2, the Scottish Government has arranged for NHS National Procurement to deliver a no-charge supply of the following PPE, for onward distribution by local Health Boards, to relevant practices:
 - Fluid Resistant Face Masks (type IIR)
 - Aprons
 - Gloves (small, medium and large size)
 - Visors
 - Hand Sanitiser
9. Alcohol wipes and plastic breath shields for slit lamps will not be provided. Practice owners and Part 1 contractors must therefore make arrangements now to obtain these prior to providing face-to-face NHS emergency and essential eye care, if these are not already present in the practice.
10. **Local Health Boards will be in contact with practice premises to deliver the above PPE supply next week (week commencing 22 June 2020). It is essential therefore that practice owners are flexible to accommodate the specific nature of local delivery processes so that the delivery can be fulfilled.**
11. Supply allocations to Health Boards are based on pre-COVID-19 practice activity levels. The quantity of PPE supplied has been modelled to last practices for up to four weeks, however depending on activity levels some practices may exhaust their PPE supply quicker.
12. **Practice owners and practitioners are therefore advised to actively monitor their PPE stock once they have commenced face-to-face NHS eye care services. If a practice is facing a situation where it may run out of stock, the**

relevant Health Board should be contacted as soon as possible (contact details will be provided by the Board).

Further PPE supplies to practice premises

13. The Scottish Government is actively working with others, including NHS National Procurement, to develop and deliver a robust, efficient and sustainable solution for the ongoing supply of NHS-provided PPE to all four primary care contractor groups (Optometry, General Practice, Dentistry and Pharmacy).
14. Depending on when this solution is delivered, a further 'push' supply of PPE to community optometry practice premises may be required in the coming weeks. The Scottish Government will provide a further update on this to practice owners and practitioners in due course.
15. As set out earlier, the initial PPE supply from the NHS is being provided at no charge to practices. A decision is still to be made on whether this arrangement will continue for further supplies. The Scottish Government will provide a further update on this to practice owners in due course.

Enquiries

Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be emailed to: eyecare@gov.scot.

**Dentistry and Optometry Division,
Directorate for Primary Care
Scottish Government**