



Dear Colleague

GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES (GOS)

Summary

1. This letter advises of:

- a reminder about mandatory training requirements for optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners (OMP) providing GOS;
- the allowance values, criteria and claims process for Continuing Education and Training undertaken by optometrists and OMPs in 2019;
- the pre-registration trainee supervisor grant amount and claims process for trainee optometrists taken on or after 1 April 2020.

Action

2. NHS Boards are asked to copy and issue the Memorandum and Annex to this letter to all those on their Ophthalmic Lists.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Ferris
Deputy Director

27 August 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(13)**

Summary

1. This Memorandum advises of:

- a reminder about mandatory training requirements for optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners (OMP) providing General Ophthalmic Services (GOS);
- the allowance values, criteria and claims process for Continuing Education and Training (CET) undertaken by optometrists and OMPs in 2019;
- the pre-registration trainee supervisor grant amount and claims process for trainee optometrists taken on or after 1 April 2020.

Reminder about mandatory training for GOS practitioners

2. Practitioners are reminded that, in order to remain on an NHS Board's Ophthalmic List to provide GOS in Scotland, there is a legal requirement under paragraph 3A of Schedule 1 of the National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, as amended, to satisfactorily complete mandatory training provided by NHS Education for Scotland (NES).
3. The first period of mandatory training covers 27 months from 1 October 2018 to 31 December 2020 and includes:
 - a '[First Port Of Call Reflective Account Of Practice](#)', which attracts one GOC CET point for optometrists and should take approximately one hour to complete.
 - an online module '[Introduction to Consent and Capacity in Optometric Practice in Scotland](#)', which attracts two GOC CET point for optometrists.
4. **The deadline for completing both of these mandatory training courses is Friday 13 November 2020.**
5. NES can offer tutor and digital support, but practitioners are advised that the capacity to provide this may be reduced towards the end of the submission period if large numbers of people leave it until the end of the period to submit their entries.
6. Further information can be found online at <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/26227/optometry/gos-mandatory-training>, and the NHS Education for Scotland mandatory training team can be contacted via email at optometrymandatorytraining@nes.scot.nhs.uk.

CET allowance values and criteria

7. The allowance values for optometrists and OMPs undertaking appropriate CET have been increased by 3%.
8. [Appendix A](#) of the Statement in the [Annex](#) to this Memorandum contains the rules determining the payment of allowances to practitioners who undertook appropriate CET in 2019.
9. A standard allowance of £578 is payable in respect of appropriate CET undertaken in 2019 (i.e. in the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019) by the following individuals:
 - optometrists (other than bodies corporate) who were on the Ophthalmic List of an NHS Board for at least six months during 2019, and who have maintained their registration with the General Optical Council; and
 - OMPs whose only remunerated medical or optical activity in 2019 was GOS, who were on the Ophthalmic List of an NHS Board for at least six months during 2019, and who have maintained their registration with the General Medical Council.
10. A higher allowance of £867 is payable in respect of appropriate independent prescriber CET undertaken in 2019 (i.e. in the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019) by optometrists (other than bodies corporate) who:
 - were registered as an independent prescriber during 2019;
 - were included on the Ophthalmic List of an NHS Board and registered with a host Board as an independent prescriber for at least six months during 2019; and
 - have maintained their registration with the General Optical Council.

CET allowance claims process

11. The application form for claiming the CET allowance, and instructions on completing and submitting it, can be found at:
<https://nhsnss.org/services/practitioner/ophthalmic/ophthalmic-payment-claims-and-fees/allowances/>
12. If you experience difficulties opening the form, right-click on the link, download it to your PC desktop and then double click on the downloaded file. This will then open it in Adobe Acrobat rather than your internet browser, and the form can be completed from there.
13. A separate claim must be made for each eligible person, and must be received by Practitioner and Counter Fraud Services (P&CFS) no later than **Monday 30**

November 2020. Only one claim may be paid in respect of any one person for appropriate CET or independent prescriber CET undertaken by that person during 2019. Handwritten applications will not be accepted.

14. Practitioners on the second part of an NHS Board's Ophthalmic List are reminded that they can now submit their own claim, and the allowance will be paid directly to them.
15. Optometrists and OMPs are not required to produce evidence of undertaking CET as a compulsory part of the claim or pre-condition of payment. However, a claim may only be paid in respect of an optometrist or OMP who has maintained their professional registration and P&CFS may conduct a sample or selective check to confirm registration.

Pre-registration trainee supervisor grant and claims process

16. From 1 April 2020 the allowance to be paid to supervisors of pre-registration trainees has increased by 3% to £3,728. Claims from supervisors taking on pre-registration trainees on or after 1 April 2020 should be paid at this new rate. The application form, and instructions on completing and submitting it, can be found at:

<https://nhsnss.org/services/practitioner/ophthalmic/ophthalmic-payment-claims-and-fees/allowances/>

Enquiries

17. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum that are in relation to:

- GOS mandatory training should be directed to NES by email at: optometrymandatorytraining@nes.scot.nhs.uk;
- claims for CET allowances and the pre-registration trainee supervisor grant should be directed to P&CFS by email at: nss.psdgospayteam@nhs.scot.

Dentistry and Optometry Division
Directorate of Primary Care
Scottish Government

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND) GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

THE STATEMENT

The Scottish Ministers, in exercise of powers conferred on them by sections 28A and 28B of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 and regulation 17 of the National Health Services (General Ophthalmic Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, after consultation with such organisations as appear to them to be representative of contractors providing General Ophthalmic Services, make the following determination (referred to as the “Statement”) –

Application

1. This determination applies to all claims for CET allowance or IPCET allowance submitted to the Agency on or after 31 August 2020.

Interpretation

2. In this Statement:

“the 2006 Regulations” means The National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (SSI 2006/135), as amended;

“CET” means continuing education and training;

“CET allowance” means the sum of £578;

“IPCET” means independent prescriber continuing education and training;

“IPCET allowance” means the sum of £867;

“optometrist” includes an optician as defined in the 2006 Regulations;

“optometrist independent prescriber” means a person—

(a) who is a registered optometrist; and

(b) against whose name is recorded in the relevant register an annotation signifying that the person is qualified to order drugs, medicines and appliances as an optometrist independent prescriber;

“professional registration” means, for optometrists, registration with the General Optical Council and, for ophthalmic medical practitioners, registration with the General Medical Council.

3. Any terms defined in regulation 2 (‘Interpretation’) of the 2006 Regulations are to be given the same meaning in this Statement.

Allowances Payable

4. Appendix A sets out the conditions which must be met before the CET allowance and IPCET allowance are payable.

APPENDIX A

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING ALLOWANCE

1. Subject to paragraph 4, a CET allowance shall be payable to an optometrist other than a body corporate if:
 - a) that optometrist's name was included on the Ophthalmic List of a Health Board for a period of at least six months during the previous calendar year;
 - b) the optometrist has maintained their professional registration;
 - c) the optometrist has undertaken appropriate CET during the previous calendar year; and
 - (d) the optometrist complies with paragraphs 5 and 6.
2. Subject to paragraph 4, a CET allowance shall be payable to an ophthalmic medical practitioner if:
 - a) during the previous calendar year that practitioner's only remunerated medical or optical activity was the conduct of General Ophthalmic Services;
 - b) the practitioner's name was included on the Ophthalmic List of a Health Board for a period of at least six months during the previous calendar year;
 - c) the practitioner has maintained their professional registration;
 - d) the practitioner has undertaken appropriate CET during the previous calendar year; and
 - e) the practitioner complies with paragraphs 5 and 6.
3. Subject to paragraph 4, an IPCET allowance shall be payable to an optometrist other than a body corporate if:
 - a) that the optometrist's name was included on the Ophthalmic List of a Health Board for a period of at least six months during the previous calendar year;
 - b) the optometrist has maintained their professional registration and has been registered as an optometrist independent prescriber during the previous calendar year;
 - c) the optometrist has been registered with a host Health Board as an optometrist independent prescriber for a period of at least six months during the previous calendar year;
 - d) the optometrist has undertaken appropriate IPCET during the previous calendar year; and
 - e) the optometrist complies with paragraphs 5 and 6.

4. Only one CET allowance or IPCET allowance may be paid in respect of any one person for each calendar year in which appropriate CET or IPCET was undertaken by that person.
5. A claim for a CET allowance or IPCET allowance shall be made in writing on the form provided for this purpose by the Agency.
6. A claim for a CET allowance or IPCET allowance must be received by the Agency by 30 November of the calendar year following the year in which the appropriate CET or IPCET was undertaken.