



Dear Colleague

**COMMUNITY OPTOMETRY – COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME AND PPE:**

**Summary**

1. This letter sets out for NHS Boards and community optometrists the agreed fees for participation in the COVID-19 vaccination programme.
2. Advanced notice of plans to shift to a “pull” model for PPE provision to community optometry practices.

**Action**

3. NHS Boards are asked to urgently copy and issue the Memorandum to this letter to all optometrists on their ophthalmic lists.

Yours sincerely,

**Tom Ferris**  
**Deputy Director**

2 December 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  
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[eyecare@gov.scot](mailto:eyecare@gov.scot) (for any  
other queries)

**MEMORANDUM TO NHS:  
PCA(O)2020(20)**

**Summary**

1. This Memorandum advises on the following:
  - This letter sets out for NHS Boards and community optometrists the agreed fees for participation in the COVID-19 vaccination programme.
  - Advanced notice of plans to shift to a “pull” model for PPE provision to community optometry practices.

**Participation in the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.**

**Background**

2. Arrangements have been agreed by Scottish Government for Health Boards to enter into local arrangements with optometrists registered on an ophthalmic list in Scotland to participate in the delivery of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.
3. Scottish Government is mindful that the need to maintain good infection prevention & control practices and appropriate physical distancing measures may constrain the capacity of GPs to be the sole providers of this programme. As such independent contractor groups (dentists, optometrists and community pharmacists) may be asked to participate in the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.
4. Participation in the programme by community optometrists is entirely voluntary and is open to all optometrists registered on a NHS Board’s ophthalmic list.
5. Community optometrists may be asked to support the programme by undertaking vaccination sessions located within local **hubs**. There are presently no plans to provide this vaccination in optometry practices.
6. The target groups will be detailed in the upcoming CMO letter which will also contain details of the clinical arrangements for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

**Vaccination Participation Fees**

7. The Scottish Government has agreed with Optometry Scotland that payments should be made for participation in the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme on a sessional basis at a rate of £230 per 3.5 hour session. This fee will be the same for evening and weekend sessions.
8. Participants will be required to explain the vaccine to patients, obtain and manage consent as well as administer the vaccine.

9. Any necessary variation for local circumstances, out with the arrangements under the national programme, should be agreed between NHS Boards and the local Area Optical Committee.

### **Training and Indemnity**

10. Online training shall be provided by NHS Education for Scotland and NHS Boards shall arrange a half day training session for participants.
11. As optometrists will be acting on behalf of an NHS Board, the indemnity will be through CNORIS.

### **Advanced notice of plans to shift to a “pull” model for supply of PPE to community optometry practices**

12. Scottish Government has been working closely with NHS National Procurement on the supply of PPE to community optometry practices. The provision of PPE will move from the current “push” model to a “pull” model in January 2021. This will require setting up secure practice NHS mail accounts, if this is not already in place, to support the ordering process. Practices may be contacted for further information in due course.

### **Enquiries**

13. Any queries about this Memorandum should be emailed to the Scottish Government at: [eyecare@gov.scot](mailto:eyecare@gov.scot).

**Dentistry and Optometry Division  
Directorate of Primary Care  
Scottish Government**