

Directorate for Primary Care
Dentistry and Optometry Division



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Dear Colleague

PRIMARY CARE OPTOMETRY:

- **Community Glaucoma Service (CGS) rollout**
- **NHS Education for Scotland Glaucoma Award Training (NESGAT) Cohort Five**

Summary

1. This letter advises on:
 - An update in relation to the rollout of CGS across Scotland;
 - An update on NESGAT cohort five.

Action

2. Health Boards are asked to immediately copy and issue the Memorandum to this letter to all:
 - optometrists, ophthalmic medical practitioners and body corporates on their Ophthalmic Lists;
 - community optometry practices in their Health Board area;
 - Hospital Eye Service (HES) manager(s) in their Health Board, for onward distribution to relevant HES colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Ferris

Deputy Director
Dentistry and Optometry Division

6 November 2025

Addresses

For action
Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information
Chief Executive,
NHS National Services
Scotland

NHS Board Optometric
Advisers

Enquiries to:

eyecare@gov.scot

**MEMORANDUM TO NHS:
PCA(O)2025(07)**

Summary

1. This Memorandum advises on the following:
 - An update in relation to the rollout of the Community Glaucoma Service (CGS) across Scotland;
 - An update on NHS Education for Scotland Glaucoma Award Training (NESGAT) cohort five.

CGS Rollout

2. Patients are now registered with CGS Accredited Providers in four Health Board areas: NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Dumfries & Galloway and NHS Lothian.
3. The Scottish Government has commissioned NHS National Services Scotland with the establishment of a Delivery Board empowered to drive forward the implementation of CGS across Scotland.
4. The Delivery Board has been set the following high level objectives:

By March 2026	CGS is live in all Health Boards* – at a minimum this requires implementation of OpenEyes (Electronic Patient Record) and the discharge of patients from the Hospital Eye Service (HES) to CGS Accredited Providers.
By March 2027	All Boards have discharged at least 70% of eligible patients from HES to CGS Accredited Providers and have Business As Usual processes in place to discharge all eligible patients.

* Excludes NHS Orkney

5. In order to accelerate the progression of CGS rollout, Health Boards have been invited to apply for funding from Scottish Government. All applications received have now been assessed and the relevant Health Boards have been advised of the funding awarded to them as part of the October allocations process.
6. The Delivery Board will have a key role in ensuring the commitments made against those allocations are achieved.

NESGAT Cohort 5

7. NESGAT cohort 4 has now completed, with 13 Independent Prescriber (IP) community optometrists achieving the qualification.

8. In order to provide sufficient capacity to manage patients discharged to CGS Accredited Providers from HES, a fifth cohort of NESGAT training has been scheduled.

9. NESGAT cohort 5 is scheduled to run from **June 2026 until February 2027**.

10. Places within cohort 5 have been allocated to the following areas:

Health Board	Health and Social Care Partnership(s)
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	South Ayrshire
NHS Borders	Scottish Borders
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	Dumfries & Galloway
NHS Grampian	Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire/Moray
NHS Highland	Argyll & Bute
NHS Lothian	Midlothian/West Lothian

11. An IP optometrist currently listed as providing General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) within these HSCP areas, and who wishes to apply to take part in NESGAT cohort 5, may do so only where they have been engaged by an optometrist included on Part 1 of the relevant Health Board's Ophthalmic List who also wishes to become registered as a CGS Accredited Provider. The NESGAT applicant can be the same person as the Accredited Provider applicant.

12. Optometrists who are not currently IP qualified but are expected to achieve this status by the NESGAT cohort 5 commencement date, and who are interested in applying for a place in NESGAT cohort 5, are encouraged to make specific contact with the relevant Health Board via the contact details on the eyes.nhs.scot website to discuss further (the relevant Board Optometric Adviser should be part of that discussion). This is particularly relevant to those practising in areas where IP coverage is low.

13. Application for a place may only be made on the condition that the optometrist is committing, post-qualification, to provide services within CGS.

14. Prior to applying, optometrists may find it helpful to do the following:

- Review the content held on the NESGAT page on [TURAS](#);
- Attend one of the NESGAT Open Evenings, which are being hosted by NHS Education for Scotland. These online events will take place on 17 and 18 November 2025, and places can be booked via the following link: [NESGAT Open Night | Turas | Learn](#);
- Discuss the demands of the NESGAT course with an optometrist in your area who already holds the qualification;
- Familiarise themselves with the legislation for the CGS (currently [The Optometry Enhanced Services \(Glaucoma\) \(Scotland\) Directions 2025](#));

- Familiarise themselves with the [CGS Patient Risk Stratification guidance](#), which the CGS Clinical Governance Group (CCG) has produced to support the risk stratification and safe discharge of patients into the CGS. Please contact your Health Board if you do not have the username and password details required to access this webpage or any other page similarly restricted on the eyes.nhs.scot website.

15. Application forms to become registered for the provision of the CGS can be accessed on the [eyes.nhs.scot](#) website.

16. Approval of applications will be at the discretion of the Health Board to which the application applies.

Deadline for Submission of NESGAT Cohort 5 Applications

17. Submission of applications must be made from the applicant's NHS email address to the Health Board to which the application applies. If an applicant does not have an NHS email address, they should contact their Host Health Board (the Health Board in which the applicant undertakes the majority of their GOS activity) to discuss the process for obtaining one.

18. Applications may be submitted between **6 November 2025 and 31 December 2025 inclusive**.

19. Applicants should be notified regarding the outcome of their application by the relevant Health Board **no later than 6 February 2026**.

Enquiries

20. Any queries about this Memorandum should be emailed to the Scottish Government at: eyecare@gov.scot.

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