



Dear Colleague

Primary Care Optometry:

- **Foundation Training Year**
- **Updated Scottish Care Information (SCI) Gateway optometry to Hospital Eye Service referral forms**
- **Part 2 listed optometrist access to SCI Gateway**
- **Special facial characteristics supplement - NHS optical vouchers**
- **Sports glasses/goggles – NHS optical vouchers**
- **Use of NHS Scotland branding by primary care contractors**
- **General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) and Community Glaucoma Service (CGS) remuneration increases**
- **Pre-registration trainee optometrist supervisor grant increase and claims process**
- **Continuing Professional Development (CPD) allowance claim process**

Summary

1. This letter advises on:

- an update on the Foundation Training Year of the Master's optometry undergraduate degree;
- updated SCI Gateway forms for referrals from primary care optometry to the Hospital Eye Service;
- SCI Gateway access for optometrists on Part 2 of a Health Board's Ophthalmic List;
- clarification in relation to the circumstances in which a special facial characteristics supplement can be prescribed and claimed on a NHS optical voucher;
- clarification that a NHS optical voucher can be used towards the cost of purchasing sports glasses/goggles;
- a new 'Providing services for NHS Scotland' logo that primary care contractors, including primary care optometry, can use provided that such use complies with the NHS Scotland brand guidelines
- remuneration increases for GOS and proposed increases for the CGS;
- an increase to the pre-registration trainee optometrist supervisor grant amount, and the claims process for trainee optometrists taken on by a supervisor on or after 1 April 2026;
- the details for optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners eligible to claim a CPD allowance for appropriate CPD they have undertaken in the 2025 calendar year.

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 for whom they are the Host Health Board;
- 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,

Gillian Leslie
Deputy Director
Dentistry and Optometry Division

18 September 2026

Addresses

For action
Chief Executives,
Health Boards

For information
Chief Executive,
Public Services Delivery
Scotland

Health Board Optometric
Advisers

Enquiries to:

nss.psdgospayteam@nhs.scot
(for queries about payments
and claims relating to GOS, the
pre-registration trainee
optometrist supervisor grant
and CPD allowances)

eyecare@gov.scot
(for any other queries)

**MEMORANDUM TO NHS:
PCA(O)2026(07)**

Summary

1. This Memorandum advises on the following:

- an update on the Foundation Training Year of the Master's optometry undergraduate degree;
- updated Scottish Care Information (SCI) Gateway forms for referrals from primary care optometry to the Hospital Eye Service (HES);
- SCI Gateway access for optometrists on Part 2 of a Health Board's Ophthalmic List;
- clarification in relation to the circumstances in which a special facial characteristics supplement can be prescribed and claimed on a NHS optical voucher;
- clarification that a NHS optical voucher can be used towards the cost of purchasing sports glasses/goggles;
- a new 'Providing services for NHS Scotland' logo that primary care contractors, including primary care optometry, can use provided that such use complies with the NHS Scotland brand guidelines;
- remuneration increases for General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) and proposed increases for the Community Glaucoma Service (CGS);
- an increase to the pre-registration trainee optometrist supervisor grant amount, and the claims process for trainee optometrists taken on by a supervisor on or after 1 April 2026;
- the details for optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners (OMP) eligible to claim a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) allowance for appropriate CPD they have undertaken in the 2025 calendar year.

2. Where this Memorandum has been received by an optometry practice via their NHS email account, it should be shared with all relevant practice staff.

3. All references to the "Statement" mean the Statement of GOS Remuneration and CPD allowances which is included in [Annex B](#) of this Memorandum and is also available in its latest form on the eyes.nhs.scot website.

Foundation Training Year update

4. Following the introduction of the General Optical Council's new Education and Training Requirements, the integrated Master of Optometry (MOptom (IP)) programmes delivered by [Glasgow Caledonian University](#) and the [University of the Highlands and Islands](#) are transforming how future optometrists are trained. As part of this, Scotland will introduce a new Optometry Foundation Training Year (FTY) in 2028, providing enhanced workplace-based learning and clinical experience for final year students.
5. It is recognised that these changes represent a significant shift from previous training models. However, they also present an exciting opportunity to help develop a highly skilled future workforce, expand learning opportunities across Scotland, and support the delivery of high-quality, patient-centred eye care.
6. **Public Services Delivery (PSD) Scotland is seeking Expressions of Interest from organisations interested in becoming a FTY placement provider and learning more about what participation could mean for practices.**
7. By registering an Expression of Interest, the organisation will receive:
 - Information on placement provision, supervision arrangements and key timelines;
 - Access to guidance, resources and engagement opportunities;
 - Details of programme requirements and expectations;
 - Updates as the programme develops.
8. Submitting an Expression of Interest is **not a commitment to participate**. It simply helps understand potential placement capacity across Scotland and ensures interested organisations receive further information as the programme develops.
9. For more information, visit the [Foundation Training Year](#) and [Placement Provider](#) pages on Turas.
10. To register an Expression of Interest please [complete and submit this form](#) by **1159 on Wednesday 23 September 2026**.
11. If you have any questions before or after completing the Expression of Interest, please contact PSD Scotland at: nes.ftyoptometry@nhs.scot.

Updated SCI Gateway Optometry to Hospital Eye Service Referral Forms

12. The five national SCI Gateway referral forms for referrals from primary care optometry to the HES (Cataract, Glaucoma, Wet AMD, Paediatric and General) have been reviewed and updated by a national multidisciplinary group across eye care services. The revised forms reflect new ways of working, strengthen data quality, and support improved communication with HES. Use of these forms is expected to reduce unwarranted variation and avoidable referrals, and to minimise delays in referral pathways.
13. The cataract, glaucoma and paediatric referral forms include additional data requirements compared with previous versions. This reflects the information required by the HES to support effective triage and management, and to minimise delays in the referral pathway. The forms are designed to remain efficient for referrers to complete.
14. Health Boards are required to implement these updated forms locally by 31 December 2026. Implementation will therefore not occur simultaneously across all Health Boards. Please refer to updates from your local primary care team for information on when the new forms will be available in your area.
15. National guidance to support practitioners in using the forms is available on the eyes.nhs.scot website, along with links to the recording and transcript of a webinar held on 10 September 2026 to update the optometry sector on the revised referral forms.

Part 2 listed optometrist access to SCI Gateway

16. Some Health Boards do not provide optometrists on Part 2 of a Health Board's Ophthalmic List with appropriate SCI Gateway access to submit referrals to the HES under GOS and to an optometry practice that provides the GOS Specialist Supplementary service.
17. These Part 2 listed optometrists are required to find an alternative solution to make a patient referral, such as submitting it physically by post or leaving the referral information in the practice for another optometrist to submit on their behalf.
18. The Scottish Government requires a national 'once for Scotland' solution to this issue. As such, the Scottish Government has written to all Health Boards requiring each to timeously provide Part 2 listed optometrists in their Health Board with appropriate SCI Gateway access, as and when required or requested, by 31 December 2026 at the latest.
19. "Appropriate SCI Gateway access" means that the Part 2 listed optometrist can use SCI Gateway to submit referrals to the HES under GOS (i.e. via one of the five SCI Gateway referral forms referred to in paragraph 12) and to an optometry practice that provides the GOS Specialist Supplementary service.

20. For Part 2 listed optometrists who work in a Health Board that has not currently implemented the above arrangements, an update will be provided by the relevant Health Board to its local optometry sector when these arrangements are in place.

Special facial characteristics supplement - NHS optical vouchers

21. Circular [PCA\(O\)2022\(03\)](#) outlined that a special facial characteristics supplement can be prescribed on a NHS optical voucher and claimed where a patient requires the spectacle frame to be specially manufactured because of their facial characteristics, and that are clinically appropriate with respect to those facial characteristics. An example may be a patient who has Down's Syndrome.
22. The Scottish Government would like to clarify that, in this context, frames that have been "specially manufactured" include stock frames that have been designed and manufactured with special facial characteristics in mind.

Sports glasses/goggles - NHS optical vouchers

23. The Scottish Government would like to clarify that a NHS optical voucher can be used towards the cost of purchasing sports glasses/goggles.
24. In relation to children playing football, practitioners should be aware for the purposes of advising parents that plastic frames and lenses with a sports band may be an acceptable alternative to sports glasses/goggles. The final decision lies with the referee as to whether they are content with what the child is wearing. Further guidance can be found on the [Scottish Football Association's website](#).

Use of NHS Scotland branding by primary care contractors

25. Primary care contractors, including primary care optometry, are advised that they can now use a new 'Providing services for NHS Scotland' logo, provided such use complies with the NHS Scotland brand guidelines. This new logo has been introduced to ensure better consistency in how NHS services are signposted to patients and the public.
26. The 'Providing services for NHS Scotland' logo assets and NHS Scotland brand guidelines can be accessed at: <https://www.nhsscotlandci.scot.nhs.uk/>.
27. The use of this logo is governed by the following principles:
- Contractual alignment: Branding must reflect the scope of NHS-funded services and comply with NHS Scotland brand guidelines.
 - Brand ownership: The NHS Scotland identity is owned by Scottish Ministers, with decisions ratified by the Chief Executive of NHS Scotland and the Director-General for Health and Social Care.
 - Clarity and consistency: Branding must help patients clearly identify NHS-funded services and uphold NHS Scotland's values, reputation, and accessibility standards.

28. Primary care contractors must not:

- Imply NHS involvement in privately funded services
- Use NHS branding to promote private services.
- Include NHS or NHS Scotland in business names.
- Mislead patients about which services are NHS-funded.
- Create or modify NHS logos.
- Add straplines to the 'Providing services for NHS Scotland' logo.
- Use NHS branding on products or medical devices.
- Enter contracts allowing third-party use of NHS branding.
- Allow suppliers to use NHS branding.
- Register trademarks using NHS Scotland identity elements.

29. Any queries about use of the 'Providing services for NHS Scotland' logo should be sent to the Scottish Government's Health Marketing Team at:
NHSScotlandBrandPolicy@gov.scot.

GOS remuneration increase

30. Remuneration for GOS eye examinations undertaken on or after 1 April 2026 will increase by 3.75%. [Annex A](#) of this Memorandum summarises the impact of the relevant fee increases and [Appendix A](#) of the Statement also reflects this position.

31. The fee increases will be applied on relevant systems from 1 November 2026 and paid as follows:

- a. For GOS eye examinations undertaken on or after 1 November 2026, and where the relevant claim is submitted during or after the October 2026 paid November 2026 payment schedule - Payment will be made at the new fee amounts on the relevant payment date for that schedule.
- b. For GOS eye examinations undertaken on or after 1 April 2026, and paid in the April 2026 to October 2026 payment schedules inclusive - Payment of backdated fees will be made in the December 2026 paid January 2027 payment schedule, which will be paid to practices on 22 January 2027.

- c. For GOS eye examinations undertaken before 1 November 2026, and where the relevant claim is submitted after the October 2026 paid November 2026 payment schedule - Payment of backdated fees will be made at the end of the financial year through a reconciliation process.

Proposed CGS remuneration increase

32. The Scottish Government proposes to increase remuneration for CGS assessments undertaken on or after 1 April 2026, and for patients registered with a CGS Accredited Provider on or after 1 April 2026 (new and existing registrations), by 3.75%.

33. The proposed new fee amounts will be as follows:

- Primary CGS assessment - £101.35;
- Supplementary CGS assessment - £49.59;
- Patient registration (per patient per annum – paid pro rata monthly) - £50.88.

34. The [Directions](#) for the CGS will be updated in due course to reflect the above fee amounts. Practitioners will be notified of this in a future PCA circular, which will also set out how the proposed fee increases will be applied on relevant systems and paid.

Pre-registration trainee optometrist supervisor grant increase and claims process

35. The amount paid to supervisors claiming a grant for taking on a pre-registration trainee optometrist on or after 1 April 2026 will increase by 3.75% to £4,818.

36. Claims for payment should be made using the form available on the [PSD Scotland website](#).

CPD allowance eligibility criteria

37. A standard CPD allowance of £654 may be claimed by the following individuals:

- optometrists (other than bodies corporate) who: were on the Ophthalmic List of a Health Board for a period of at least six months during 2025; have maintained their professional registration with the General Optical Council; **and** have undertaken appropriate CPD* during 2025;
- OMPs whose only remunerated medical or optical activity in 2025 was General Ophthalmic Services (GOS); were on the Ophthalmic List of a Health Board for a period of at least six months during 2025; have maintained their professional registration with the General Medical Council; **and** have undertaken appropriate CPD* during 2025.

38. A higher CPD allowance of £979 may be claimed by optometrists who: were registered with a host Health Board as an independent prescriber (IP) optometrist for a period of at least six months during 2025; were on the Ophthalmic List of a Health Board for a period of at least six months during 2025; have maintained their professional registration with the General Optical Council and been registered as an IP optometrist during 2025; **and** have undertaken appropriate CPD* during 2025.
39. Only one claim may be made in respect of appropriate CPD* undertaken during the 2025 calendar year.
40. * As communicated previously in circulars [PCA\(O\)2025\(02\)](#) and [PCA\(O\)2025\(06\)](#) and in regular communications from NHS Education for Scotland (now part of PSD Scotland), “appropriate CPD” includes GOS mandatory training as described in [paragraph 3A of schedule 1 of the NHS \(General Ophthalmic Services\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2006](#) (“2006 Regulations”), as amended.
41. This means that in order to be eligible to claim a CPD allowance for appropriate CPD undertaken during 2025, amongst other things an optometrist/OMP **must** have satisfactorily completed the 2025 GOS mandatory training by 31 December 2025 - **unless** they are exempt from having to do so under paragraph 3A(3) of schedule 1 of the 2006 Regulations, as amended.

CPD allowance claims process

CPD allowance claim submission period

42. CPD allowance claims for appropriate CPD undertaken in 2025 will be able to be submitted to PSD Scotland **between 12 October 2026 and 29 January 2027 inclusive**. PSD Scotland intends to process payments for all valid CPD allowance claims after the claim submission period has ended.
43. **Under no circumstances will any CPD allowance claims received by PSD Scotland after Friday 29 January 2027 be accepted.** Practitioners are advised to submit their CPD allowance claim in good time ahead of this date, and to read the PSD Scotland guidance referred to in paragraph 51 before proceeding to fill in the claim form.
44. The Scottish Government acknowledges that the above arrangements are significantly later than normal. This is due to exceptional circumstances, which include the Scottish Parliament elections and operational capacity at PSD Scotland to support this process. The intention is to move to a regular annual timeline with effect from next year, wherein the CPD allowance claims process is concluded by the summer.

Accessing the CPD allowance claim form

45. To access the CPD allowance claim form, optometrists and OMPs must have an active eOphthalmic system user account.
46. The CPD allowance claim form can be accessed by signing in to the eOphthalmic system at: <https://digitalwebforms.mhs.scot.nhs.uk>. **The CPD allowance claim form will not be available before 12 October 2026.**
47. If you currently submit your GOS, NHS optical voucher and/or CGS claims via the eOphthalmic web form, or you have previously used the eOphthalmic system to submit a CPD allowance claim, you will use your existing eOphthalmic sign-in credentials and Personal Identification Number (PIN).
48. However, if your GOS and NHS optical voucher claims are submitted via a Practice Management System and you have not previously used the eOphthalmic system to submit a CPD allowance claim, you must set up a user account for the eOphthalmic system in order to access the form and submit your claim. PSD Scotland has published information on how to set up an eOphthalmic account at: <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/ophthalmic-services/eophthalmic/how-to-set-up-an-eophthalmic-account/>.
49. Access to the eOphthalmic system is via the Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN). If you access NHS systems via an IPsec tunnel and experience any technical issues in accessing or submitting the CPD allowance claim, you should contact your corporate IT team in the first instance.
50. An exception process has been established for claimants who no longer have access to eOphthalmic (e.g. retired individuals) and who cannot therefore set up an eOphthalmic account as outlined above. It is anticipated that this will apply only to those who are no longer on a Health Board's Ophthalmic List for the provision of GOS. Further information on how to make a claim via this process can be obtained by contacting PSD Scotland at: nss.psdGOSCPDclaims@nhs.scot.

Completing and submitting the CPD allowance claim form

51. PSD Scotland has published information on how to complete and submit the CPD allowance claim form at: <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/ophthalmic-services/ophthalmic-claims-and-allowances/continuing-professional-development-cpd-allowance/>. Optometrists and OMPs are strongly advised to read this guidance before proceeding to fill in the claim form.

Enquiries

52. Any queries regarding payment claims for GOS, the pre-registration trainee optometrist supervisor grant and CPD allowances should be emailed to PSD Scotland at: nss.psdgospayteam@nhs.scot.

53. Any other 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

ANNEX A**General Ophthalmic Services eye examinations undertaken on or after 1 April 2026**

	Before increase	Following increase
Primary Eye Examination (Patient aged under 60 where the patient's pupils have not been dilated or a cycloplegic refraction has not been undertaken)	£46.53	£48.27
Primary Eye Examination (Patient aged under 60 where the patient's pupils have been dilated or a cycloplegic refraction has been undertaken)	£57.80	£59.97
Primary Eye Examination (Patient aged 60 or over where the patient's pupils have not been dilated)	£50.52	£52.41
Primary Eye Examination (Patient aged 60 or over where the patient's pupils have been dilated)	£57.80	£59.97
Supplementary Eye Examination (Standard)	£30.83	£31.99
Supplementary Eye Examination (Enhanced)	£47.80	£49.59
Supplementary Eye Examination (Specialist - First Appointment)	£97.69	£101.35
Supplementary Eye Examination (Specialist - Follow-up Appointment)	£47.80	£49.59
Domiciliary additional visiting fee (for each of the 1st and 2nd patients at a specified establishment/location on the same day)	£47.24	£49.01
Domiciliary additional visiting fee (for each of the 3rd and subsequent patients at a specified establishment/location on the same day)	£11.83	£12.27

Pre-registration trainee optometrist supervisor grant - pre-registration trainee optometrists taken on by a supervisor on or after 1 April 2026

	Before increase	Following increase
Pre-registration Trainee Optometrist Supervisor Grant	£4,644	£4,818

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND)

GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

THE STATEMENT

The Scottish Ministers, in exercise of powers conferred 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 primary eye examinations and supplementary eye examinations carried out on or after 1 April 2026.

Interpretation

2. In this Statement:

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

“appropriate”, in relation to CPD or IPCPD carried out on or after 4 April 2025, includes mandatory training as described in paragraph 3A of schedule 1 of the 2006 Regulations;

“CPD” means continuing professional development;

“CPD allowance” means the sum of £654;

“Goldmann type tonometer” includes a Perkins type tonometer;

“GOS” means general ophthalmic services as defined in the 2006 Regulations;

“IP optometrist” means an optometrist who is an optometrist independent prescriber as defined in the 2006 Regulations;

“IPCPD” means independent prescriber continuing professional development;

“IPCPD allowance” means the sum of £979;

“OMP” means an ophthalmic medical practitioner as defined in the 2006 Regulations;

“optometrist” includes an optician as defined in the 2006 Regulations;
“professional registration” means, for optometrists, registration with the General Optical Council and, for OMPs, registration with the General Medical Council;

“specialist IP optometrist” means a specialist optometrist independent prescriber as defined in the 2006 Regulations;

“specialist OMP” means a specialist ophthalmic medical practitioner as defined in the 2006 Regulations.

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

Fees Payable

4. The fees payable to an optometrist or OMP for undertaking eye examinations are set out in [Appendix A](#).
5. Appendices B to E set out conditions which must be met before fees are payable:
 - (a) [Appendix B](#) sets out the frequencies of primary eye examinations by patient category for which fees will be payable, and the circumstances in which the use of early re-examination codes is permitted;
 - (b) [Appendix C](#) sets out conditions on the conduct of a primary eye examination;
 - (c) [Appendix D](#) sets out conditions on the conduct of a supplementary eye examination;
 - (d) [Appendix E](#) sets out:
 - (i) practice equipment that must be provided in accordance with paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 to the 2006 Regulations, as a condition of the fees payable under appendices A to D; and
 - (ii) records that must be kept in accordance with paragraph 8 of Schedule 1 to the 2006 Regulations, as a condition of the fees payable under appendices A to D.

Allowances Payable

6. [Appendix F](#) sets out the conditions which must be met before the CPD allowance and IPCPD allowance are payable.

APPENDIX A**FEES PAYABLE TO OPTOMETRISTS AND OMPS FOR EYE EXAMINATIONS****PRIMARY EYE EXAMINATION**

1. Fees payable for each primary eye examination carried out in accordance with appendices [B](#) and [C](#) by an optometrist or OMP for a patient aged under 60 years:
 - (a) where the patient's pupils have not been dilated or a cycloplegic refraction has not been undertaken - £48.27
 - (b) where the patient's pupils have been dilated or a cycloplegic refraction has been undertaken - £59.97
2. Fees payable for each primary eye examination carried out in accordance with appendices [B](#) and [C](#) by an optometrist or OMP for a patient aged 60 years and over:
 - (a) where the patient's pupils have not been dilated - £52.41
 - (b) where the patient's pupils have been dilated - £59.97

SUPPLEMENTARY EYE EXAMINATION

3. Fees payable for each supplementary eye examination carried out in accordance with [Appendix D](#) by an optometrist or OMP:
 - (a) standard supplementary eye examination - £31.99
 - (b) enhanced supplementary eye examination - £49.59

SPECIALIST SUPPLEMENTARY EYE EXAMINATION – ANTERIOR EYE CONDITION

4. Fees payable for each supplementary eye examination carried out in accordance with [Appendix D](#) and [Annex C](#) by a specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP:
 - (a) specialist supplementary eye examination – anterior eye condition – first appointment - £101.35
 - (b) specialist supplementary eye examination – anterior eye condition – second or subsequent appointment - £49.59

DOMICILIARY VISITING FEE

5. The additional fees payable to an optometrist or OMP for visits to a place where the patient normally resides for the purpose of carrying out NHS eye examinations under GOS are:
 - (a) for a visit to one establishment or location to undertake an NHS eye examination, for each of the first and second patients - £49.01
 - (b) for each of the third and subsequent patients at the same establishment or location - £12.27
6. A payment made under paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 above to an OMP who is participating in the National Health Service Superannuation Scheme, is subject to adjustment in respect of superannuation by deduction of the appropriate contribution.

APPENDIX B**THE FREQUENCY OF PRIMARY EYE EXAMINATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGULATION 22A OF THE 2006 REGULATIONS**

1. A primary eye examination must not be carried out more frequently than the frequency set out in [Table A](#) of this Appendix, except in the circumstances (and using the relevant reason code) set out in [Table B](#) of this Appendix.

TABLE A

Category of patients	Frequency
Patients: - aged under 16 years; - aged 60 years or over; - with diabetes; - who are sight impaired or severely sight impaired, as set out in Annex B to this Statement.	Annually
All other patients	Biennially

TABLE B

Early Re-Examination Codes For Primary Eye Examination
7 - This code is only to be used in the following scenarios: (a) the patient is new to the practice and the optometrist or OMP does not have access to the patient's clinical records; or (b) the patient is not new to the practice but the optometrist or OMP does not have access to the patient record created as a result of a primary eye examination carried out at another practice within the relevant primary eye examination frequency as defined in Table A.
8 - This code is to be used when the patient has turned 16 years of age (and does not have diabetes and/or is not sight impaired or severely sight impaired), resulting in a change in frequency between primary eye examinations from annually to biennially. Annex A to this Statement provides a guide chart which should be used by optometrists and OMPs when determining a patient's eligibility for an early re-examination under this code.

APPENDIX C

PRIMARY EYE EXAMINATION

1. A primary eye examination carried out by an optometrist or OMP shall consist of all appropriate tests or procedures relevant to the presenting signs, symptoms and needs of the patient for the purpose of that examination (including the tests and procedures of an eye health assessment as defined in the [Table](#) below), unless:
 - (a) the optometrist or OMP considers that the patient has a physical or mental condition which would make the carrying out of a specific test or procedure clinically inappropriate;
 - (b) in the judgement of the optometrist or OMP, a specific test or procedure is clinically inappropriate for any other reason; or
 - (c) the patient has refused to undertake a specific test or procedure.
2. Following a primary eye examination, if the patient is being referred they should be referred directly to an IP optometrist, OMP, ophthalmic hospital or to the patient's GP practice.
3. Clinically appropriate equipment must be used for each test or procedure carried out under a primary eye examination.
4. Where –
 - (a) the patient has refused to consent to the use of a particular piece of equipment; or
 - (b) the patient has a physical or mental condition which would make the use of a particular piece of equipment clinically inappropriate or not reasonably practicable;alternative equipment may be used which, despite not being a direct equivalent to any suggested examples in professional guidance for that particular test or procedure in terms of clinical thoroughness, will enable the required test or procedure to be carried out.

TABLE**THE TESTS AND PROCEDURES INVOLVED IN AN EYE HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSES OF A PRIMARY EYE EXAMINATION**

The tests and procedures involved in an eye health assessment required for the purposes of a primary eye examination should be in accordance with guidance laid out in the [College of Optometrists Guidance for Professional Practice](#) and [Scottish Intercollegiate Guidance Network 144: Glaucoma Referral and Safe Discharge](#), and must include (unless any of grounds (a), (b) and (c) set out in paragraph 1 of [Appendix C](#) apply):

Tests and procedures
Taking a record of any relevant history and symptoms, which includes relevant medical, family, and ocular history.
An eye health assessment appropriate to the patient's presenting signs, symptoms and needs.
A refraction and an assessment of the patient's visual function.
In keeping with the requirements of the Opticians Act 1989 'to perform such examinations of the eye for the purpose of detecting injury, disease or abnormality in the eye or elsewhere'.
An external examination of the eye using slit lamp biomicroscopy.
An internal examination of the eye using slit lamp biomicroscopy and a condensing lens.
The communication of the clinical findings, advice, results and diagnosis to the patient and, where appropriate, the patient's carer and other health professionals. This may include a referral letter and clinical reports.
<i>Primary eye examinations involving dilation:</i> Patients aged 60 years or over should have a dilated internal eye examination.
<i>Primary eye examinations carried out in practice premises:</i> To capture and record a digital image of the retina for all patients aged 60 years or over.
<i>Primary eye examinations carried out in a place where the patient normally resides:</i> Use of a head mounted indirect ophthalmoscope and a direct ophthalmoscope may be appropriate for an internal examination of the eye. Use of a portable slit lamp may be appropriate for an external examination of the eye.

APPENDIX D**SUPPLEMENTARY EYE EXAMINATION**

1. A supplementary eye examination carried out by an optometrist or OMP shall consist of all appropriate tests or procedures relevant to the presenting signs, symptoms and needs of the patient for the purpose of that examination (including the tests and procedures of an eye health assessment as defined in [Table A](#) of Appendix D), unless:
 - (a) the optometrist or OMP considers that the patient has a physical or mental condition which would make the carrying out of a specific test or procedure clinically inappropriate;
 - (b) in the judgement of the optometrist or OMP, a specific test or procedure is clinically inappropriate for any other reason; or
 - (c) the patient has refused to undertake a specific test or procedure.
2. [Table B](#) of Appendix D lists the reason codes to be used in accordance with the carrying out of a supplementary eye examination. Only one reason code per supplementary eye examination is required.
3. Following a supplementary eye examination, if the patient is being referred they should be referred directly to an IP optometrist, OMP, ophthalmic hospital or to the patient's GP practice.
4. Clinically appropriate equipment must be used for each test or procedure carried out under a supplementary eye examination.
5. Where:
 - (a) the patient has refused to consent to the use of a particular piece of equipment; or
 - (b) the patient has a physical or mental condition which would make the use of a particular piece of equipment clinically inappropriate or not reasonably practicable;alternative equipment may be used which, despite not being a direct equivalent to any suggested examples in professional guidance for that particular test or procedure in terms of clinical thoroughness, will enable the required test or procedure to be carried out.

TABLE A**THE TESTS AND PROCEDURES INVOLVED IN AN EYE HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSES OF A SUPPLEMENTARY EYE EXAMINATION**

The tests and procedures involved in an eye health assessment required for the purposes of a supplementary eye examination should be in accordance with guidance laid out in the [College of Optometrists Guidance for Professional Practice](#) and [Scottish Intercollegiate Guidance Network 144: Glaucoma Referral and Safe Discharge](#), and must include (unless any of grounds (a), (b) and (c) set out in paragraph 1 of [Appendix D](#) apply):

Tests and procedures
Taking a record of any relevant history and symptoms, which includes relevant medical, family, and ocular history.
An eye health assessment appropriate to the patient's needs and any presenting signs and symptoms.
Whenever an external examination of the eye is required, it should be carried out using slit lamp biomicroscopy.
Whenever an internal examination of the eye is required, it should be carried out using slit lamp biomicroscopy and a condensing lens. A head mounted indirect ophthalmoscope may also be appropriate for some patients.
The communication of the clinical findings, advice, results and diagnosis to the patient and, where appropriate, the patient's carer and other health professionals. This may include a referral letter and clinical reports.
<i>Enhanced Supplementary Examination with dilation/cycloplegia:</i> If, in the judgement of the optometrist or OMP, the patient requires a dilated internal examination or cycloplegia, then the reason must be recorded.
<i>Supplementary eye examinations carried out in a place where the patient normally resides:</i> Use of a head mounted indirect ophthalmoscope and a direct ophthalmoscope may be appropriate for an internal examination of the eye. Use of a portable slit lamp may be appropriate for an external examination of the eye.

TABLE B

SUPPLEMENTARY EYE EXAMINATION - REASON CODES

If a supplementary eye examination is carried out on the same day as a primary eye examination, full details of the reasons why must be provided in the patient's records.

A supplementary eye examination cannot be claimed on the same day as a primary eye examination, for the same patient, using the 3.1, 3.7, 4.1, 4.6 and 4.7 reason codes.

Reason codes 3.5, 3.8, 4.5, 4.8 and 5.0 should only be claimed on the same day as a primary eye examination, for the same patient, where the supplementary eye examination is an emergency eye examination the clinical need for which is identified at a different time of day to the primary eye examination.

A supplementary eye examination undertaken using remote facilities must:

- **only be claimed using one of reason codes 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 5.0 or 5.1;**
- and**
- **involve all the elements of an eye examination undertaken in person with the patient, except tests and procedures which require the physical presence of the patient. Any advice and recommendations should be issued and clearly documented in the patient's record.**

A supplementary eye examination cannot be claimed where remote facilities are only used to ask the patient a series of questions to explore their concerns more fully and make a decision regarding whether the patient requires an eye examination.

Standard Supplementary Eye Examination
3.0 – Additional or Significantly Longer Appointment To Complete Primary Eye Examination For A Patient With Complex Needs This code can be used for an additional appointment (whether or not on the same day as the first appointment), or a significantly longer single appointment, required to complete a primary eye examination in practice premises for a patient with complex needs, when more time to complete the examination is needed. This code should be claimed in addition to the relevant primary eye examination fee. This code must not be used more than once per day for the same patient. A patient with complex needs is a patient who has a physical or mental condition and, as a result of that condition, the patient's primary eye examination must be conducted significantly more slowly than that of a typical patient who does not have a physical or mental condition. This includes circumstances where a sign-language interpreter is required because of the patient's physical or mental condition. A patient must not be treated as having complex needs solely due to their age.
3.1 - Paediatric Review (without dilation/cycloplegia that does not follow a primary eye examination) This code is to be used to review a child within 12 months of a primary eye examination, as judged clinically necessary, and dilation/cycloplegia is not required.
3.2 - Follow-Up / Repeat Procedures (without dilation and not associated with glaucoma) This code is to be used for additional or repeat procedures not requiring dilation and which are required to refine a diagnosis or clinical outcome in order to determine whether the patient needs referral or can be retained for ongoing care in the community. This code can be used for a refraction, on a separate day, that could not be undertaken at the primary eye examination.
3.3 - Suspect Glaucoma (without dilation) This code is to be used specifically for suspect glaucoma review, in keeping with SIGN 144 guidance for diagnosis and referral for glaucoma, and which does not require dilation. This includes ocular hypertension.
3.5 - Anterior Eye Condition (without dilation) This code is to be used for a supplementary eye examination of a patient (in person or using remote facilities) with a suspect or diagnosed anterior eye condition within the normal interval between primary eye examinations, and which does not require dilation. Practitioners should follow Annex C to determine how to make an appropriate claim for treatment of an anterior eye condition.

3.7 - Post-Operative Cataract Examination (without dilation)

This code is to be used for a post-operative cataract examination of a patient, which includes refraction, an ocular examination and (if required) a feedback report, but does not require dilation.

This code should not be used for a post-operative cataract examination of a patient where a GOS provider has, is or will receive remuneration outwith GOS arrangements for undertaking the appointment. Such examinations do not form part of GOS.

3.8 - Unscheduled Appointment (without dilation)

This code is to be used for a supplementary eye examination for a patient (in person or using remote facilities) who presents with symptoms for an unscheduled appointment within the normal interval between primary eye examinations, and which does not require dilation.

3.9 - Cataract Referral Advice and Counselling

This code is to be used when providing advice and counselling to a patient (in person or using remote facilities) following an eye examination which has resulted in the patient being considered for referral. This may include providing prognosis or counselling and preparation for consent for cataract surgery, including risk factors.

Enhanced Supplementary Eye Examination

An enhanced supplementary eye examination should be conducted where it is deemed clinically appropriate to support the care of the patient.

4.1 - Paediatric Review (with dilation or cycloplegic refraction)

This code is to be used to review a child within 12 months of a primary eye examination, as judged clinically necessary, and dilation/cycloplegia is required.

This code is also to be used to facilitate the cycloplegic refraction of a child aged under 16 when the cycloplegic refraction is undertaken on a different day to a primary eye examination. If the cycloplegic refraction is undertaken on the same day as a primary eye examination then only the relevant primary eye examination fee can be claimed.

4.2 - Follow-Up / Repeat Procedures (with dilation and not associated with glaucoma)

This code is to be used for additional or repeat procedures requiring dilation and which are required to refine a diagnosis or clinical outcome in order to determine whether the patient needs referral or can be retained for ongoing care in the community.

4.3 - Suspect Glaucoma (with dilation)

This code is to be used specifically for a suspect glaucoma review, in keeping with SIGN 144 guidance for diagnosis and referral for glaucoma, and which requires dilation. This includes ocular hypertension.

4.5 - Anterior Eye Condition (with dilation)

This code is to be used for a supplementary eye examination of a patient with a suspect or diagnosed anterior eye condition within the normal interval between primary eye examinations, and which requires dilation.

Practitioners should follow [Annex C](#) to determine how to make an appropriate claim for treatment of an anterior eye condition.

4.6 - Cycloplegic refraction of a child referred from the hospital eye service

To facilitate the cycloplegic refraction of a child aged under 16 referred from the hospital eye service.

The supplementary eye examination must include an internal and external examination of the eye.

4.7 - Post-Operative Cataract Examination (with dilation)

This code is to be used for a post-operative cataract examination of a patient, which includes refraction, an ocular examination and (if required) a feedback report, and also requires dilation.

This code should not be used for a post-operative cataract examination of a patient where a GOS provider has, is or will receive remuneration outwith GOS arrangements for undertaking the appointment. Such examinations do not form part of GOS.

4.8 - Unscheduled Appointment (with dilation)

This code is to be used for a supplementary eye examination for a patient who presents with symptoms for an unscheduled appointment within the normal interval between primary eye examinations, and which requires dilation.

Specialist Supplementary Eye Examination:

A specialist supplementary eye examination must only be carried out at a location that forms part of arrangements that a Health Board has entered into regarding the provision of specialist supplementary eye examinations.

A specialist supplementary eye examination should be conducted where it is deemed clinically appropriate to support the care of the patient. A specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP must not provide Stage 2 treatment to a patient earlier than clinically necessary solely to claim a specialist supplementary eye examination fee.

5.0 – First Specialist Supplementary Eye Examination Appointment

This code is to be used for the first specialist supplementary eye examination of a patient:

- who has presented, without referral, to a specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP, and receives any Stage 2 treatment as specified in [Annex C](#); or
- who has been referred under [paragraph 14\(4\) of schedule 1](#) of the 2006 Regulations to a specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP, and receives any Stage 2 treatment as specified in [Annex C](#).

No GOS claim can be made for clinically triaging a patient before accepting a referral.

Patients who are referred but do not need Stage 2 treatment

Where the patient is referred, if, after the specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP has reviewed the patient's presenting signs, symptoms and needs, they determine that the patient does not have an anterior eye condition requiring Stage 2 treatment, a supplementary eye examination under a 5.0 reason code can still be claimed.

Patients managed by different clinicians within a practice

Where:

- a patient has an appointment with an optometrist or OMP in relation to a suspect or diagnosed anterior eye condition that is anticipated to require Stage 2 treatment; and
- as a result of that appointment the patient is then directed to receive any Stage 2 treatment from a specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP during a separate appointment on the same day within the same optometry practice location,

only **one** supplementary eye examination claim must be made in relation to **both** appointments, under reason code 5.0. The patient notes should clearly record each practitioner's professional contribution to the management of the patient.

Episodes of care

An episode of care at Stage 2 is defined as being complete when the condition:

- has been resolved successfully;
- does not respond to treatment or does not resolve, and onward referral is made to an ophthalmic hospital or to the patient's GP practice for medical support/intervention; or
- steps down to Stage 1 treatment.

Where an episode of care is complete and no follow-up appointments with the patient are scheduled, and the anterior eye condition later reoccurs such that the specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP determines that the provision of any Stage 2 treatment is clinically required in accordance with [Annex C](#), then a new episode of care is deemed to have commenced and a specialist supplementary eye examination claim under reason code 5.0 can be made.

5.1 – Second Or Subsequent Specialist Supplementary Eye Examination Appointment (or where onward referral to an ophthalmic hospital or a General Practitioner is required)

This code is to be used in the following circumstances:

- for the second and subsequent specialist supplementary eye examination of a patient who receives any Stage 2 treatment as specified in [Annex C](#). This would normally be with the same specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP who initiated the Stage 2 treatment, but might be with another specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP where the original IP optometrist or specialist OMP is no longer able to manage the patient (for example due to unexpected absence);
- where the patient is examined by a specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP who determines that the patient has an anterior eye condition that requires more complex treatment than Stage 2 as specified in [Annex C](#), and is therefore referred onto an ophthalmic hospital or a General Practitioner under [paragraph 14\(4\) of schedule 1](#) of the 2006 Regulations.

Scheduled primary eye examination appointment during which Stage 2 treatment is provided

In the unlikely event where a patient has a scheduled primary eye examination and, during that examination, the patient is diagnosed with an anterior eye condition and is provided with any Stage 2 treatment by a specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP, then both a primary eye examination claim and a specialist supplementary eye examination claim under reason code 5.1 can be made.

APPENDIX E**PRACTICE EQUIPMENT THAT MUST BE PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 6 OF SCHEDULE 1 TO THE 2006 REGULATIONS**

1. A contractor must provide proper, sufficient and appropriate equipment in good working order for the provision of GOS. This must include, but is not limited to:

(a) For practice premises:

- (i) Distance test chart (e.g. Snellen chart)
- (ii) Trial frame, trial lenses and accessories or phoropter head
- (iii) Condensing lens for indirect retinal viewing with slit lamp biomicroscope (60-120D)
- (iv) Slit lamp biomicroscope
- (v) Reading test type
- (vi) Automated visual field analyser, capable of full threshold analysis of the central 30 degrees
- (vii) A Goldmann type contact applanation tonometer
- (viii) Digital retinal imaging apparatus with a minimum resolution of 2 megapixels and capable of taking a clear retinal image under normal circumstances
- (ix) Distance binocular vision test
- (x) Near binocular vision test
- (xi) Retinoscope
- (xii) Direct ophthalmoscope
- (xiii) Colour vision test chart
- (xiv) Stereoacuity test
- (xv) Macula assessment test
- (xvi) Pachymeter
- (xvii) Appropriate hand disinfection product
- (xviii) Ophthalmic drugs required for tonometry, dilation, corneal examination and other necessary ophthalmic procedures.

(b) For mobile practices:

- (i) Distance test chart (e.g. Snellen chart)
- (ii) Trial frame, trial lenses and accessories or phoropter head
- (iii) Appropriate equipment for binocular internal eye examination (e.g. slit lamp and condensing lens or a head-mounted indirect ophthalmoscope)
- (iv) Appropriate equipment for external eye examination (slit lamp, and loupe and illumination)
- (v) Reading test type
- (vi) A Goldmann type contact applanation tonometer
- (vii) Distance binocular vision test
- (viii) Near binocular vision test
- (ix) Retinoscope
- (x) Direct ophthalmoscope
- (xi) Colour vision test chart

- (xii) Stereoacuity test
- (xiii) Macula assessment test
- (xiv) Pachymeter
- (xv) Appropriate hand disinfection product
- (xvi) Ophthalmic drugs required for tonometry, dilation, corneal examination and other necessary ophthalmic procedures.

(c) For the provision of primary and supplementary eye examinations in a place where the patient normally resides (practice premises and mobile practices):

- (i) Portable slit lamp which meets all of the following specifications:
 - 10x magnification
 - White and cobalt blue light
 - An adjustable slit width
 - Built-in illumination

(d) For the provision of specialist supplementary eye examinations (practice premises and mobile practices):

- (i) Sterile needles
- (ii) Alger brush and burr
- (iii) Sharps bin

RECORDS THAT MUST BE KEPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 8 OF SCHEDULE 1 TO THE 2006 REGULATIONS

2. An optometrist or OMP must keep appropriate clinical records as relevant to any eye examination conducted.
3. The information recorded should follow professional guidance. In addition, the record should include:
 - (a) A record of any relevant history and symptoms, to include relevant medical, family, and ocular history;
 - (b) CHI number if available;
 - (c) All relevant clinical details, including a copy of any referral made; and
 - (d) A digital image of the retina (or reference to the image) when taken.

APPENDIX F

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE

1. Subject to paragraph 4, a CPD 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 CPD during the previous calendar year; and
 - (d) the optometrist complies with paragraphs 5 and 6.
2. Subject to paragraph 4, a CPD allowance shall be payable to an OMP if:
 - (a) during the previous calendar year that practitioner's only remunerated medical or optical activity was the conduct of GOS;
 - (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 CPD during the previous calendar year; and
 - (e) the practitioner complies with paragraphs 5 and 6.
3. Subject to paragraph 4, an IPCPD 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 and has been registered as an IP optometrist during the previous calendar year;
 - (c) the optometrist has been registered with a host Health Board as an IP optometrist for a period of at least six months during the previous calendar year;
 - (d) the optometrist has undertaken appropriate IPCPD during the previous calendar year; and
 - (e) the optometrist complies with paragraphs 5 and 6.

4. Only one CPD allowance or IPCPD allowance may be paid in respect of any one person for each calendar year in which appropriate CPD or IPCPD was undertaken by that person.
5. A claim for a CPD allowance or IPCPD allowance shall be made in writing on the form provided for this purpose by the Agency.
6. A claim for a CPD allowance or IPCPD allowance for appropriate CPD or IPCD undertaken during 2025 must be received by the Agency by 29 January 2027.

PRIMARY EYE EXAMINATION EARLY RE-EXAMINATION CODE 8 – PATIENT TURNED 16 YEARS OF AGE

As set out in [Table B](#) of Appendix B, this Annex and the guide chart below is to be used by optometrists and OMPs when determining whether a patient who has turned 16 years of age (and does not have diabetes and/or is not sight impaired or severely sight impaired) is eligible to an early re-examination under code 8.

1 Ask for the age of the patient, as at the eye examination date.

2 How long ago was their last eye examination?

3 Cross-check age with examination interval to identify when to use the new early re-examination code 8.

1 Patient is 17 years and 1 month

Example:
In the example shown on the guide, the patient would be entitled to an NHS eye examination, and you would need to enter the early re-examination reason code on the claim form.

	11 months	1 year	1 year 1 month	1 year 2 months	1 year 3 months	1 year 4 months	1 year 5 months	1 year 6 months	1 year 7 months	1 year 8 months	1 year 9 months	1 year 10 months	1 year 11 months
16 years	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
16 + 1 month	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
16 + 2 months	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
16 + 3 months	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
16 + 4 months	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
16 + 5 months	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
16 + 6 months	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
16 + 7 months	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
16 + 8 months	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
16 + 9 months	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
16 + 10 months	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
16 + 11 months	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
17 years	N	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
17 + 1 month	N	N	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
17 + 2 months	N	N	N	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
17 + 3 months	N	N	N	N	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
17 + 4 months	N	N	N	N	N	N	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
17 + 5 months	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	8	8	8	8	8	8
17 + 6 months	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	8	8	8	8	8
17 + 7 months	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	8	8	8	8
17 + 8 months	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	8	8	8
17 + 9 months	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	8	8
17 + 10 months	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	8
17 + 11 months	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
18 years	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Over 18 years	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

2 Patient last had an NHS eye examination 1 year and 6 months ago

3

Key

8 Yes

Your patient is entitled to an NHS eye examination. Please use early re-examination reason code 8 on the claim form.

N No

Your patient is not entitled to an NHS eye examination.

ANNEX B**PRIMARY EYE EXAMINATION ENTITLEMENT - SIGHT IMPAIRED AND SEVERELY SIGHT IMPAIRED PATIENTS**

1. As set out in [Table A](#) of Appendix B, this Annex is to be used by optometrists and OMPs for the purposes of determining a patient's entitlement to an annual primary eye examination because they are sight impaired or severely sight impaired.

Sight Impaired

2. There is no legal definition of sight impaired. A person can be sight impaired if they are "substantially and permanently functionally impaired by defective vision caused by congenital defect or illness or injury".
3. As a general guide, people who have visual acuity of the following should be considered as being sight impaired:
 - (a) 3/60 to 6/60 Snellen (or equivalent) with full field;
 - (b) up to 6/24 Snellen (or equivalent) with moderate contraction of the field, opacities in media or aphakia;
 - (c) 6/18 Snellen (or equivalent) or even better if they have a severe field defect, for example hemianopia, or if there is a contraction of the visual field, for example in retinitis pigmentosa or glaucoma.

Severely Sight Impaired

4. Although there is no legal definition of severely sight impaired, it is considered to be the same as the definition of "blind person" set out in section 64 of the National Assistance Act 1948 – "means a person so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential".
5. The test is whether a person cannot do any work for which eyesight is essential, not just their normal job or one particular job. Only the condition of the person's eyesight should be taken into account - other physical or mental conditions cannot be considered.
6. Group 1: People who are below 3/60 Snellen (or equivalent)
 - (a) Severely sight impaired: people who have visual acuity below 3/60 Snellen (or equivalent).
 - (b) Not severely sight impaired: people who have visual acuity of 1/18 Snellen (or equivalent) unless they also have restriction of visual field. In many cases it is better to test the person's vision at one metre. 1/18 Snellen (or equivalent) indicates a slightly better acuity than 3/60 Snellen (or equivalent). However, it may be better to specify 1/18 Snellen (or equivalent) because the standard test

types provide a line of letters which a person who has a full acuity should read at 18 metres.

7. Group 2: People who are 3/60 but below 6/60 Snellen (or equivalent).

(a) Severely sight impaired: people who have a contracted field of vision.

(b) Not severely sight impaired: people who have a visual defect for a long time and who do not have a contracted field of vision. For example, people who have congenital nystagmus, albinism, myopia and other similar conditions.

8. Group 3: People who are 6/60 Snellen (or equivalent) or above.

(a) Severely sight impaired: people in this group who have a contracted field of vision especially if the contraction is in the lower part of the field.

(b) Not severely sight impaired: people who are suffering from homonymous or bitemporal hemianopia who still have central visual acuity 6/18 Snellen (or equivalent) or better.

9. Other points to consider: The following points are important because it is more likely that a person is severely sight impaired in the following circumstances:

(a) How recently the person's eyesight failed: A person whose eyesight has failed recently may find it more difficult to adapt than a person with the same visual acuity whose eyesight failed a long time ago. This applies particularly to people who are in groups 2 and 3 above.

(b) How old the person was when their eyesight failed: An older person whose eyesight has failed recently may find it more difficult to adapt than a younger person with the same defect. This applies particularly to people in group 2 above.

ANNEX C

CLAIMING INFORMATION FOR SPECIALIST SUPPLEMENTARY EYE EXAMINATIONS

The content in this Annex and in the remainder of the Statement (in particular [Appendix B](#), [Appendix C](#) and [Appendix D](#)) is to support practitioners in making appropriate claims under GOS with respect to specialist supplementary eye examinations. **It should not be used as a clinical management guide.**

In managing patients with a suspect or diagnosed anterior eye condition, all optometrists and OMPs must recognise and work to their own level of competence and expertise and are reminded that clinical guidance and information to support them in managing such patients is available, including:

- the College of Optometrist's [Clinical Management Guidelines](#);
- the [Eyecare Guidelines](#);
- local formulary updates;
- local guidance.

The anterior eye conditions applicable to this Annex are:

1. [Anterior Uveitis](#)
2. [Blepharitis](#)
3. [Corneal Foreign Body](#)
4. [Episcleritis](#)
5. [Herpes Simplex Keratitis](#)
6. [Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus](#)
7. [Infective Conjunctivitis](#)
8. [Marginal Keratitis](#)
9. [Ocular Allergy](#)
10. [Ocular Rosacea](#)

All references in this Annex to “alternative” is used to describe:

- a situation where a Stage 1 medication has not been effective and an “alternative” medication has been prescribed; or
- where the condition is severe enough at presentation to warrant initial treatment at Stage 2.

“Alternative” for this purpose is a Prescription Only Medicine that is only available to an IP optometrist or OMP.

The [Table](#) at the end of this Annex provides further information to support practitioners in making appropriate claims to the Agency when a patient has a suspect or diagnosed anterior eye condition.

1. Anterior Uveitis

Anterior Uveitis		Eligible Claimants
Stage 1	- Record vision and intra ocular pressure (IOP) - Dilate to exclude intermediate and or posterior inflammation	All optometrists and OMPs
Stage 2	- Topical steroids - Topical cycloplegic	Specialist IP optometrists and specialist OMPs

Eyecare Guideline: [7.1 Acute Anterior Uveitis](#)

2. Blepharitis

Blepharitis		Eligible Claimants
Stage 1a	- Blepharitis management – lid cleaning, hot compresses, lid massage - Ocular lubricants	All optometrists and OMPs
Stage 1b	- Chloramphenicol eye drops or ointment - Demodex treatment (rarely)	All optometrists and OMPs
Stage 2	- Alternative topical antibiotics - Topical steroids - Oral antibiotics	Specialist IP optometrists and specialist OMPs

Eyecare Guideline: [1.2 Blepharitis, Anterior and Posterior](#)

3. Corneal Foreign Body

Corneal Foreign Body		Eligible Claimants
Stage 1	- Assess the eye and adnexa for other injury / disease - Remove foreign body - Chloramphenicol eye ointment may be required - Ocular lubricant may be required	All optometrists and OMPs
Stage 2	- A sterile needle is required to remove foreign body - Remove rust ring - Systemic analgesia - Topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) - Bandage contact lenses	Specialist IP optometrists and specialist OMPs

Eyecare Guideline: [5.4 Foreign Body, Corneal](#)

4. Episcleritis

Episcleritis		Eligible Claimants
Stage 1	• Cold compresses • Ocular lubricants	All optometrists and OMPs
Stage 2	• Topical NSAID • Topical steroids • Oral NSAIDs	Specialist IP optometrists and specialist OMPs

Eyecare Guideline: [4.1 Episcleritis](#)

5. Herpes Simplex Keratitis (HSK)

Herpes Simplex Keratitis		Eligible Claimants
Stage 1	• Carry out a dilated fundus examination to assess and establish HSK	All optometrists and OMPs
Stage 2	• Topical anti-viral • Oral anti-viral	Specialist IP optometrists and specialist OMPs

Eyecare Guideline: [5.14 Keratitis, Viral, Herpes Simplex](#)

6. Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus (HZO)

Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus		
Stage 1	• A detailed examination of the anterior eye • Measure IOP and conduct a dilated internal examination • Any cases with deeper corneal involvement, associated anterior uveitis or elevated IOP should be referred urgently to an ophthalmic hospital (same day)	All optometrists and OMPs
Stage 2	• Systemic anti-viral drugs • Systemic analgesia	Specialist IP optometrists and specialist OMPs

Eyecare Guideline: [5.8 Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus](#)

7. Infective Conjunctivitis

Infective Conjunctivitis		Eligible Claimants
Stage 1a	• Eyelid cleaning • Wash out • Cold compresses	All optometrists and OMPs
Stage 1b	• Topical antibiotics e.g. chloramphenicol drops or ointment	All optometrists and OMPs
Stage 2	• Alternative topical antibiotics • Topical steroids • Removal of pseudo membrane	Specialist IP optometrists and specialist OMPs

Eyecare Guidelines:

[3.13 Conjunctivitis, Viral, Non-Herpetic](#)

[3.5 Conjunctivitis, Bacterial](#)

8. Marginal Keratitis

Marginal Keratitis		Eligible Claimants
Stage 1	• Blepharitis management • Topical antibiotics • Ocular lubricants • Systemic analgesia	All optometrists and OMPs
Stage 2	• Alternative antibiotic • Topical steroids	Specialist IP optometrists and specialist OMPs

Eyecare Guideline: [5.10 Keratitis, Marginal](#)

9. Ocular Allergy

Ocular Allergy		Eligible Claimants
Stage 1	• Cold compresses • Wash out / eye bath • Advice – avoidance of allergen • Topical anti-allergy drugs • Oral anti-histamines	All optometrists and OMPs
Stage 2	• Alternative topical anti-allergy drugs • Alternative oral anti-histamines • Topical NSAIDs • Topical steroids	Specialist IP optometrists and specialist OMPs

Eyecare Guidelines:

[3.4 Conjunctivitis, Acute Allergic](#)

[3.10 Conjunctivitis, Seasonal Allergic/Hay Fever, Perennial Allergic](#)

[3.14 Keratoconjunctivitis, Atopic](#)

[3.15 Keratoconjunctivitis, Vernal \(Spring Catarrh\)](#)

10. Ocular Rosacea

As for [Blepharitis](#).

Eyecare Guideline: [1.11 Ocular Rosacea](#)

TABLE

Please refer to the following table when determining how to make an appropriate claim to the Agency when a patient has a suspect or diagnosed anterior eye condition

Stage	Arrangements for GOS claims when a suspect or diagnosed anterior eye condition is involved		
	Optometrist (including IP optometrist) or OMP who provides treatment (with or without subsequent referral to a specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP)	Specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP to whom the patient presents (without referral)	Specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP who accepts the referral of a patient from an optometrist or OMP for the provision of Stage 2 treatment
1 (including a and b)	Primary eye examination or Supplementary eye examination reason code 3.5 or 4.5.		Not applicable – unless, in the unlikely event, the specialist IP optometrist or specialist OMP determines that the patient requires Stage 1 treatment instead of Stage 2 treatment, in which case a supplementary eye examination under a 5.0 reason code can still be claimed.
2	Primary eye examination or Supplementary eye examination reason code 3.5 or 4.5.	Supplementary eye examination reason code 5.0 (First appointment) or 5.1 (Second and subsequent appointments). * Refer to the full information for the reason 5.0 and 5.1 codes before submitting a claim	