

Dear Colleague

GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

NHS Eye Examinations

Summary

1. This letter advises NHS Boards and Practitioner Services of the agreement reached on a 3 year fee agreement for optometrists/ophthalmic medical practitioners providing NHS eye examinations.

Background

2. [NHS: PCA\(O\)\(2008\)1](#), issued on 8 February 2008, advised of increases in the NHS eye examination fees. These increased were agreed with Optometry Scotland as part of a 3 year fee agreement. The 3 year fee agreement included capital funding to optometrists providing NHS eye examinations over this and the next financial year, primarily towards the purchase of digital fundus cameras, and the capping of NHS primary eye examinations. The Memorandum to this letter provides more information on the 3 year fee agreement.

Action

3. NHS Boards and Practitioner Services are asked to note the information on the 3 year fee agreement contained in the Memorandum to this letter.

4. Practitioner Services are asked to pay the increased fees in line with the agreement outlined in the Memorandum to this letter.

22 May 2008

Addresses

For action
Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

For information
Chief Executive,
NHS National Services Scotland

Enquiries to:

Lynne Morrison
Primary Care Division
1st Floor East Rear
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 2466
Fax: 0131-244 2326

5. Copies of the Memorandum to this letter are being sent under separate cover for distribution to all optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners on NHS Board lists.

Yours sincerely

DR JONATHAN PRYCE
Deputy Director

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES**

NHS EYE EXAMINATIONS

1. This Memorandum advises NHS Boards and Practitioner Services of the agreement reached on a 3 year fee agreement for optometrists/ophthalmic medical practitioners providing NHS eye examinations.

2. The Memorandum to [NHS: PCA\(O\)\(2008\)1](#), issued on 8 February 2008, advised of increases in the NHS eye examination fees. These increases were agreed with Optometry Scotland as part of a 3 year fee agreement. The 3 year fee agreement included capital funding to optometrists providing NHS eye examinations over this and the next financial year, primarily towards the purchase of digital fundus cameras, and the limiting of NHS primary eye examinations. The following provides more information on the 3 year fee agreement.

3. NHS eye examinations, as advised in the Memorandum to NHS: PCA(O)(2008)2:

2008/09	£40 for primary eye examinations for those aged 60 and over £36 for primary eye examinations for those aged under 60 £21 for supplementary eye examinations
2009/10	£44 for primary eye examinations for those aged 60 and over £36 for primary eye examinations for those aged under 60 £21 for supplementary eye examinations
2010/11	£45 for primary eye examinations for those aged 60 and over £37 for primary eye examinations for those aged under 60 £21.50 for supplementary eye examinations

4. £8 million of capital funding is being provided over the two financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09 primarily for the purchase of digital fundus cameras. As part of the 3 year fee agreement it has been agreed that the taking of digital photos will become a standard part of the primary NHS eye examination for those aged 60 and over from 1 April 2009 and will be phased in as follows:

2008/09	for those aged 60 and over digital photo optional but cannot levy a private charge for those aged under 60 digital photo optional and can levy a private charge
2009/10	for those aged 60 and over digital photo required for those aged under 60 digital photo optional and can levy a private charge
2010/11	for those aged 60 and over digital photo required for those aged under 60 digital photo optional but cannot levy a private charge

5. The higher fee for those aged 60 and over from 2009/10 will only be payable where a digital photo is taken. Where an optometrist does not have access to a digital fundus camera when undertaking an NHS primary eye examination for a patient aged 60 and over, eg because a practice does not have the room to accommodate a camera or when providing a domiciliary visit, then a lower fee at the same level as that paid for those aged 60 and over for 2008/09 (ie £40) will be payable. New GOS(S)1 forms will be issued nearer the time which will differentiate between where a digital photo is and is not taken for those aged 60 and over.

6. It has also been agreed as part of the 3 year fee agreement that NHS primary eye examinations should only be undertaken in line with the timescales set down in the Memorandum of Understanding on the Frequency of NHS Eye Examinations. The intention being that other eye examinations undertaken within these timescale would be undertaken as NHS supplementary eye examinations. Multiple supplementary examinations will be claimable for the same patient. It is proposed that these changes will take place with effect from 1 October 2009 and further information about this will be sent nearer the time.

7. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be taken up with your NHS Board.

Scottish Government Health Directorates
22 May 2008