

## **South East Optometry Commissioning Team Newsletter – May 2022**

**SEOCT 02/22**

**Dear Colleagues,**

Welcome to the May 2022 edition of the Optometry Commissioning Team's quarterly newsletter.

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### **Changes to GOS contract administration**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) took over responsibility for GOS contract administration for the whole of England. The South East Optometry Team will continue to complete any new (or relocation) contract administration that was in progress before April. Our optometric advisers will continue in their role in assisting GOS contract applications.

### **Notifying NHSBSA of changes**

There is a contractual obligation to inform NHSBSA: [nhsbsa.pao-contractadmin@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.pao-contractadmin@nhs.net) of any change affecting your GOS contract as listed below:

- Change of days or hours that you provide GOS
- Change of contact details, including email and telephone number
- Relocation of premises or adding additional premises
- Change of Registered Office for corporate bodies

- Notification of changes of Director/Secretary/CEO in a corporate body
- Contractor status changes e.g. individual (sole trader) / partnership/ corporate body
- Changes in partnerships or limited liability partnerships, which includes changes to the members of the partnership or death in service of a partner
- Termination of GOS contract

If you are relocating premises, please contact NHSBSA before the moving date, giving them plenty of notice to arrange a practice visit. In preparation for issuing a contract variation, all new premises must be inspected prior to continuing to provide GOS. Contract variations will be issued to practices that are fully compliant with the Equality Act i.e. a patient in a wheelchair needs to be able to enter the practice and be able to access the testing room. The QIO checklist covers all aspects of the contract and will assist you in preparing for the practice inspection. The checklist can be found at: [Quality in Optometry - Welcome](#)

If you need to request a change to your bank account, please contact NHSBSA [nhsbsa.pao-contractadmin@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.pao-contractadmin@nhs.net). You will be asked to complete a declaration of banking details form, to be signed by all directors, partners or Individuals party to the contract. The South East Optometry Team will apply to Shared Business Services (SBS) for a new financial reference code and, once complete, we will inform PCSE to make future GOS payments to your new bank account. Please be aware that the process can take several weeks. In the interim, please continue to submit your GOS claims as normal and **do not close down your old bank account** until you receive confirmation that we have completed your request.

### Reporting other changes affecting your GOS contract

You must notify NHS England South East Optometry Team by email: [england.southeastoptometry@nhs.net](mailto:england.southeastoptometry@nhs.net) of the following changes:

- Changes in regular performers
- 24-hour retirements (OMP contractors only)
- Planned or unplanned closures
- Suspension of GOS services, such as suspension for refurbishment or holiday
- Notification within 7 days of a change to your personal circumstances, such as a GOC investigation, conviction, charge of an offence, or insolvency

Please remember, it is important to notify a change in any of the above two sections. In some cases, the failure to do so could result in a contract breach notice being issued.

### NHS GOS 4 pre-authorisation help

The NHSBSA has published guidance to help ophthalmic contractors with GOS 4 pre-authorisation requests to repair or replace a patient's glasses. The article covers what is a GOS 4 voucher, how to check your patient qualifies and how to get pre-authorisation from the NHSBSA: [Under the Lens: Pre-authorising your GOS 4 vouchers | NHSBSA](#)

## Next steps on IPC: Publication of revised UK Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Guidance and an IPC Manual for England

A letter was issued on 14 April 2022 which sets out the next steps on UK Infection Prevention and Control (IPC):

[C1630 Next-steps-on-IPC-Publication-of-revised-UK-Infection-Prevention-and-Control-IPC-Guidance-and-an-IPC-Man.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108111/C1630_Next-steps-on-IPC-Publication-of-revised-UK-Infection-Prevention-and-Control-IPC-Guidance-and-an-IPC-Man.pdf)

## Symptomatic and asymptomatic staff testing

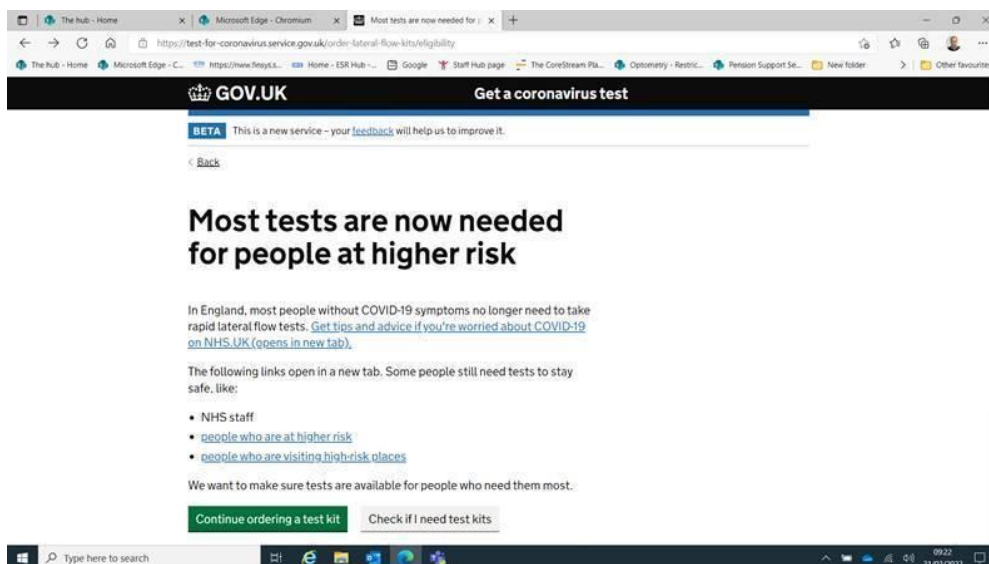
A standard operating procedure (C1633) was issued on 26 April 2022 which provides guidance in relation to staff testing. It replaces previous standard operating procedures and FAQs for lateral flow device (LFD) use in NHS trusts and primary care:

[C1633 symptomatic-and-asymptomatic-staff-testing-april-2022.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108111/C1633_symptomatic-and-asymptomatic-staff-testing-april-2022.pdf)

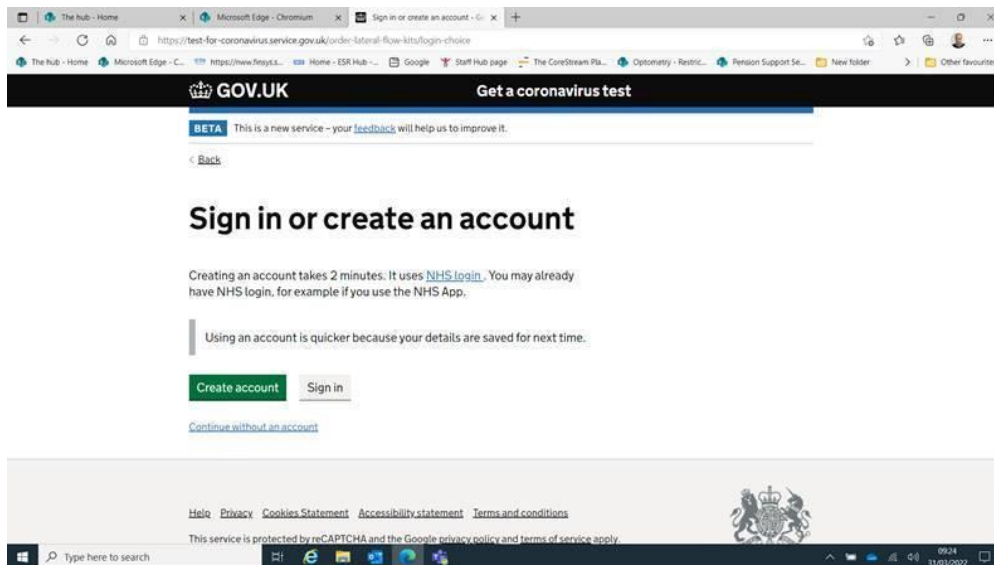
## Website for ordering free PPE

In March 2022, a new personal protective equipment (PPE) website launched ensuring continuity of PPE distribution to frontline health and care staff, and other eligible users: [New online system launched for ongoing provision of free PPE to continue protecting our workforce and communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-online-system-launched-for-ongoing-provision-of-free-ppe-to-continue-protecting-our-workforce-and-communities)

If you haven't got an account, you will need to create one. Go to: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) and continue through the pages:



Click Continue ordering a test kit. The next page invites you to create an account:



Once your account is set up you can start ordering.

### **Buckinghamshire mobile cataract unit helping hundreds get NHS treatment**

A new [mobile cataract suite](#) in Buckinghamshire is helping hundreds of patients in the county receive faster care. The unit, which is located on the grounds of Stoke Mandeville Hospital, enables Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust to perform up to 100 additional cataract surgeries each week, contributing to the elective recovery plan.

*(South East News, 20 April 22)*

### **NHS England and NHS Improvement South East Eye Health Information for Professionals**

There is now an established South East webpage which will incorporate guidance for all optometry professionals and their teams within our South East region:

[NHS England and NHS Improvement South East » South East Region Eye Health](#)

### **Help with patient GOS eligibility queries**

If you have questions about help with patient entitlement to receive GOS or any other health costs you can call the Help with Health Costs helpline on **0300 330 1343**.

**South East Optometry Commissioning Team**

**NHS England and NHS Improvement - South East Region**

e: [england.southeastoptometry@nhs.net](mailto:england.southeastoptometry@nhs.net)

w: [www.england.nhs.uk](http://www.england.nhs.uk)

