



NHS England and NHS Improvement – South West

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NHS Sight Test Fee & Domiciliary Fee

As of the 1 April 2021 the GOS sight test fee has increased by 1.9% meaning the new GOS 1 fee is now £21.71. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have issued formal confirmation on the government website see below for a detail of the DHSC letter issued.

[letter-setting-out-general-ophthalmic-services-fees-from-april-2021](#)

An extract from the DHSC letter is below for your information: -

Following consultations with representatives of the professions, the Secretary of State has determined that the NHS sight test fee should be increased to £21.71.

For superannuation purposes please note that for ophthalmic medical practitioners the practice expense component of the sight test fee will be £5.51 from April 2021.

The fees payable to GOS contractors for NHS domiciliary visits will be £38.27 for the first and second patients seen at one visit and £9.58 for the third and subsequent patients. Revised general ophthalmic services contracts (payments) directions are attached which apply from 1 April 2021.

Extension to Temporary Suspension of Patient Signatures

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has approved an extension to an existing temporary measure in England by suspending the need for patients to sign ophthalmic forms.

The suspension was initially for a period of 5 months up to 31 March 2021 to help limit the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This is now extended for a further 3 months until 30 June 2021.

This means you can continue to enter Covid-19 in the signature box for both electronic and paper GOS forms. Please remember to indicate on the form whether patient, parent/guardian or carer would be signing the Patient Declaration if the relaxation of regulations wasn't in place and provide their name and address as usual if not the patient.

Free COVID-19 PPE Scheme Extended Until the End of March 2022

The Government is extending the provision of free COVID-19 PPE to health and social care providers until the end of March 2022. Following the previous announcement of free PPE provision until the end of June 2021, the scheme will now be extended to the end of March 2022 as the expectation of clinical experts is that usage will remain high throughout the next financial year.

This will ensure that General Practice, dentists, community pharmacy and opticians can continue to access rigorously tested and high-quality PPE. Providers should continue to access COVID-19 PPE via their current distribution channels.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

- [Vaccination Survey](#)

Thank you to the providers that responded to the survey on [Friday 16 April 2021](#), where we asked you to confirm the position regarding your staff accessing the vaccination programme. Initially we were going to run the survey for four weeks, however, there is still an indication that contractors still need to have staff vaccinated, so we will continue with the survey to help ensure that systems have enough vaccination in the system for our primary care staff.

This information is collected as part of a national survey of all health and social care workers in the JCVI cohort, to assess whether systems had provided access to the vaccination for these members of the primary care team. Responses to the survey will inform whether or not systems still need to provide additional capacity for your staff's vaccinations.

NHS England & Improvement and your system recognise it is important for you as employers and NHS England & Improvement as commissioner of your service, to be confident that your staff in the priority cohort have been able to access a vaccination if they wish to.

Of the responses we received, we can see that in [Week 10 – 09 April 2021](#). Headlines as follows:

- 87% of Optom staff in the cohort vaccinated. (Week1 76%) (Wk2 91%) (Wk3 85%) (Wk4 85%) (Wk5 86%) (Wk6 86%) (Wk7 86%) (Wk8 87%) (Wk9 87%) (Wk10 87%)
- 87% of Dental staff in the cohort vaccinated (Wk1 81%) (Wk2 87%) (Wk3 86%) (Wk4 85%) (Wk5 85%) (Wk6 86%) (Wk7 87%) (Wk8 87%) (Wk9 87%) (Wk10 87%)
- 90% of Pharmacy Staff in the cohort vaccinated (Wk1 83%) (Wk2 85%) (Wk3 84%) (Wk4 85%) (Wk5 87%) (Wk6 88%) (Wk7 88%) (Wk8 89%) (Wk9 89%) (Wk10 90%)

If you have not submitted any vaccination information, please respond to the weekly email that is being set via your email address. If you are having difficulty with the link please copy and paste the below information into your web browser.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kp4VA8Zyl0umSq9Q55CtydpHR-sbF5DhTBWtVubF7IUMVhIVThTSk1EQUhDSjVVRFZSRERYMksxTi4u>

- **New staff / staff returning from furlough**

New key worker staff or those returning from furlough requiring a Covid-19 vaccination are now required to contact their local GP surgery rather than their local CCG as previously required for key worker vaccinations. Any queries regarding vaccinations for new key worker staff or staff returning from furlough please contact the local area team at england.optometrysouthwest@nhs.net

Lateral Flow Test Kits - Update

Following the rollout of lateral flow testing devices for COVID-19 at the end of last year, PCSE are now inviting contractors to order the second round of testing devices for your patient-facing staff. Contractors were asked to place orders between the 8th and the 21st March, however a reminder that new orders can still be placed.



1

Login to PCSE Online supplies portal



2

Search for 'Test Kit C19'



3

Add test kits to basket and checkout



4

Order confirmation

Important note: Test kits need to be ordered separately to your normal supplies order. Any orders placed with other supplies items cannot be processed and will need to be cancelled.

Available support

For queries on ordering or getting access to order, contact PCSE via the Contact Us form [here](#). Choose Supplies as the category and type of enquiry and put Test Kit as the subject.

For FAQs and information leaflet click [here](#).

You can view the SOP for usage of lateral flow devices for asymptomatic staff testing at vaccination sites [here](#). The link to the page is here <https://pcse.england.nhs.uk/services/supplies/covid-19-test-kits/>

Quickly Signpost Patients with NHS Service Finder

Improvements have been made to NHS Service Finder, which gives health and care staff access to accurate information when signposting patients to other local services. The latest release makes searching for services faster and simpler, search results are now easier to navigate, and there are also more options for filtering by service type and opening times.

Creating an account is quick and easy, and open to anyone working in health or social care. Register with your NHS mail email address for immediate access from your computer, smartphone or tablet. For more information, visit the NHS Digital website or email service.finder@nhs.net.

Reminder - Covid-19 Outbreak Reporting

This is a reminder that contractors should inform the Primary Care Team if any of your team are reported as Covid-19 positive via email to england.optometrysouthwest@nhs.net. This will enable us to help and support you, and so that we are aware of any staffing pressures you may have.

Infection Prevention Control (IPC) Covid-19 Update

As you may be aware at the end of 2020 contractors across the region participated in a survey with NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) regarding infection prevention control measures within their practice during the Covid-19 pandemic. The survey was to enable NHS England & Improvement to understand more about how practices are responding to the pandemic, particularly in relation to the additional measures required to comply with the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and social distancing guidelines set out in NHS England Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) for optical practices.

As a follow on to the survey monitoring visits have been undertaken over March and April with a sample of contractors across the South West region to see face to face via virtual practice visits the good work taking place ensuring staff and patients are Covid-19 secure when delivering services and that they are compliant with the necessary IPC requirements.

The visits have given the opportunity to check how the vaccination programme of key workers has gone together with ensuring adequate supplies of PPE and Lateral Flow Test Kits. A review of the visits and how IPC measures can be embedded into ongoing contractor assurance visits for further improvements in the future is now underway.

Information on the IPC Standard Operating Procedure is below for your reference.

[Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\) Primary Care Optical Setting – Covid-19](#)

Need Support with Submitting GOS Claims Online?

GOS claims can now be submitted online directly via PCSE Online or through your Patient Management system (PMS).

- If you are using PCSE Online to submit your claims, and would like further information or guidance on using the portal, please click on the link below, which contains access to a range of resources including our YouTube channel with a range of 'how to' videos.
- If you use practice management software, please contact your PMS provider directly for more any support you need when submitting online claims.
- Want to see your latest statement? All users – both PCSE Online and PMS users – can access their Statements via PCSE Online. Click the link below to find out more.
- Not moved online and want to? Click on the link below to find out how.

Please note new paper GOS forms, which can be used as contingency in case of emergency, i.e. power outages, are available to order via the [PCSE Portal](#).

[Support for GOS Claims Online - Primary Care Support England \(PCSE\)](#)

PCSE - Ophthalmic Payment Queries

If you have an ophthalmic payment queries you need to contact PCSE via the online contact form by using the following link:

- <https://pcse.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/>

PCSE will provide support and respond to you on all queries relating to: -

- Batch Header Requests/Query
- Cancel a GOS Claim
- CET Grant Claims
- Domiciliary Visit Notifications Query
- GOS Payment Statement
- HC5 Patient Refund Query
- GOS Payment Query
- New Contractor Set Up
- Portal Set up queries
- Pre Reg-Training Grant
- Rejected Claim Forms
- Approved Signatories

Reminder - Contact Details South West Regional Optometry Team

Reminder that all email communications will now be via the following email address:
england.optometrysouthwest@nhs.net.

Please ensure you use the above email address for all email communications going forwards if your premises fall under one of the regional areas listed below.

The South West region covers the following areas: -

- Bath & North East Somerset
- Bristol
- Cornwall & Isles of Sicily
- Devon
- Dorset
- Gloucestershire
- North Somerset
- South Gloucestershire
- Somerset
- Swindon
- Wiltshire

Please be aware the old email address england.bgs-w-optometry@nhs.net will no longer continue to be monitored going forwards and your message may not be dealt with.

Email Correspondence – Signature Details

Please can you ensure when communicating with the South West Optometry Team you include the following details within your correspondence to help us with responding to your enquiry. Many thanks.

- Contact Name
- Name of Contractor
- ODS Code

Contract Changes - 3 months' notice to inform NHS England & Improvement

Just a reminder if you are going to open a new practice, sell a practice or relocate premises then you need to inform NHS England as soon as possible, ideally 3 months prior to the agreed end date.

The reason for this is so we can help manage your expectations and complete all the behind the scenes work that needs to be done such as payment set up and contract practice visit. Please put your request in a letter on headed paper and send to england.optometrysouthwest@nhs.net

Useful Information

INFORMATION



NHS England & Improvement – South West Region Optometry Contract Management Team

Team Member	Telephone	Email Address
Kath Hughes	07730 374739	england.optometrysouthwest@nhs.net
Tracey Howes	07730 380479	

Website

Please see our website for more information and any blank templates, forms and documents [here](#)

Primary Care Support England (PCSE)

PCSE has the responsibility for the delivery of NHS England primary care support services. For Opticians PCSE provide:

- [Ophthalmic Payments](#) - Administrating monthly payments of GOS forms, processing Continuing Education and Training (CET) payments, deducting local Optical Committee levies.
- [Performers List](#) - Administering entry and changes to Performers Lists on behalf of NHS England
- [Supplies](#) - Providing NHS stationery, pre-printed forms, needles and syringes via PCSE Online.

Contact details for PCSE

Web: <https://pcse.england.nhs.uk/organisations/opticians/>
PO Box: Primary Care Support England, PO Box 350, Darlington, DL1 9QN
Phone: 0333 014 2884
Enquiry Form: <https://pcse.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/>