

To: Regional directors of primary care

cc. Integrated care board optometry
commissioning leads

NHS England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

17 December 2025

Dear colleague

Re: Update to general ophthalmic services fees and payments

I am writing with information about:

- the NHS sight test fee
- the continuing professional development payment for 2024
- the clinical placement training payment from 1 April 2025

Please bring this to the attention of all staff dealing with general ophthalmic services (GOS), including optometrists and ophthalmic contract holders.

NHS sight test fee

Following consultation with representatives of the professions, ministers have determined that the following changes to GOS fees for 2025/26:

- NHS sight test fee will increase to £24.13
- there will be no changes to any other fees

The [General Ophthalmic Services Contracts \(Payments\) Directions 2025](#) were published on 8 December 2025.

The increase to the NHS sight test fee, including the sight test fee element of domiciliary visits, will be backdated to 1 April 2025. Contractors do not need to take action; Primary Care Support England (PCSE) will make any necessary payments directly to contractors.

From 7pm on Thursday 11 December 2025, sight tests dated on or after 1 April 2025 will be paid at the increased rate of £24.13. This applies to:

- any GOS1 and GOS5 claims
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- the sight test element of GOS6 claims submitted through PCSE Online or your practice management service (PMS) provider

We are working with PCSE to undertake a reconciliation exercise of payments from April 2025 that require uplifting. Timescales for receiving these will be communicated in early 2026.

Continuing professional development payment window opening

The payment for continuing professional development undertaken by optometrists between 1 January and 31 December 2024 will remain at £596.

The claim window will open on the 8 December 2025 and close on 31 March 2026. Please refer to the information on the PCSE website about [how to make a claim during the claim window](#).

Clinical placement training payment

Ministers have agreed that support will continue for the supervision of optometry trainees, following the education review by the General Optical Council.

A clinical placement training payment shall be available to any contractor holding a GOS contract and employing an eligible optometry trainee within their practice. Contractors will be able to claim up to £4,010 per eligible student for training completed between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026.

We have now published [Optometry clinical placement training payment: contractor guidance](#) that sets out the arrangements for claiming the clinical placement training payment for optometry students. It is designed to support contractors during the transition from the Scheme for Registration (SfR) to Clinical Learning in Practice (CLiP), following reforms to optometry education approved by the General Optical Council (GOC) in 2021.

We are aware that some claims from previous years may remain outstanding. Any contractors with outstanding claims from past placements must submit them to Primary Care Support England (PCSE) no later than 31 March 2026. Claims must be submitted using the current [Pre-reg training grant claim form](#).

Please note:

- claims received after 31 **March 2026** will not be paid
- any outstanding claims submitted by the deadline will be paid at the rate applicable at the time the training supervision was provided
- we strongly encourage all contract holders to review their records promptly and submit any outstanding claims as soon as possible

Yours sincerely



Ali Sparke

Director for Dentistry, Community Pharmacy and Optometry