



Association of British Dispensing Opticians



Hospital Travel Costs Scheme consultation
Information for Choice Programme
Department of Health
Room 5E62, Quarry House
Quarry Hill, LEEDS LS2 7UE
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4th April 2007

Dear Sirs

Together ABDO, AOP, the College and FODO represent the 10,000 optometrists and over 5,000 dispensing opticians in the UK who provide high quality and accessible eye care services to the whole population.

We welcome the proposal to reimburse eligible patients for their travel costs when attending healthcare appointments that occur outside hospital. We feel it is inequitable that patients who would be eligible for transport to hospital should have to pay to access services provided in other settings.

In many parts of the country optometrists in community practices are delivering NHS care to patients that has traditionally been provided in hospitals. Optometrists are well qualified to deliver such care and this is increasingly being recognised by Primary Care Trusts and other commissioning groups.

We welcome reform in this system and hope that costs incurred by patients in travelling to a community optometric practice can be recognised and included in a revised scheme.

If we can help with any further information about optometrists and how they can continue to help increase the provision of eyecare closer to patients, in a primary care setting, please contact us.

Yours faithfully

Sir Anthony Garrett
General Secretary
Association of British Dispensing Opticians

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