



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

LHB Chief Executives  
LHB Directors of Finance  
Optometrists and Ophthalmic Medical  
Practitioners on LHB lists

Eich cyf \* Your ref:  
Ein cyf \* Our ref

30 June 2009

Dear Colleague

## **GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES – PAYMENTS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR 2008**

### **Summary**

I am writing to notify you of the arrangements for payments for loss of earnings in respect of continuing education and training undertaken by optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners on LHB lists and the level of payment in respect of 2008 CET which is payable this year.

Please could you bring this information to the attention of all staff dealing with general ophthalmic services, optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners.

Please make payments for continuing education validly claimed between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

### **Payments for continuing education and training**

Following consultations with representatives of the professions, the Welsh Ministers have agreed that payments should be made in respect of continuing education and training undertaken by optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners without another medical appointment (i.e. who do no other remunerative work but the testing of sight). The payment for 2008 is £458. Payments will be made retrospectively in respect of claims made by optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners relating to CET training undertaken during the year from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008. This year the period during which optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners may make their claims will be 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.



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The revised Statement of General Ophthalmic Services Remuneration is attached to this letter. The Statement outlines the current fees for the CET Allowance, sight tests and domiciliary visits.

**Action**

A claim form is attached and a more detailed note on the payment is attached at Annex A.

LHBs (or the Business Services Centre) are asked to provide optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners listed with them a copy of the note at Annex A and a copy of the claim form.

A copy of this letter, the note at Annex A and the claim form will be placed on the eyecare website at <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?orgid=735>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Cullen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Claire Cullen  
General Medical and Optometric Services  
Community, Primary Care and Health Services Policy Directorate

cc Optometry Wales  
Business Services Centre

## **GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES – PAYMENTS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

The Department of Health and Welsh Assembly Government have agreed with the optical profession and the British Medical Association that a payment should be made in respect of loss of earning associated with continuing education and training.

### **The payment**

The payment in respect of CET undertaken between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 is £458 and will be payable in 2009. The payment is due to –

- a. opticians, other than a corporate optician; and
- b. ophthalmic medical practitioners, who conduct only sight tests and have no other remunerated medical employment (such as hospital work or general practice),

who were on a LHB's ophthalmic list, or assisted a contractor in the provision of General Ophthalmic Services, for at least six months in the relevant year and have maintained their professional registration. The payment is for having undertaken appropriate continuing education and training.

### **Claims**

Claims must be made in writing to the appropriate LHB (or where appropriate the Business Services Centre) and be made by contractors whether the contractor is claiming for him/herself or for an assistant. For contractors claiming a payment for themselves the claim should be made to a LHB (or Business Services Centre) where they are on the ophthalmic list and with which they undertake the most work (if they are listed with more than one LHB).

When contractors claim for an assistant, the claim should normally be made by and paid to the contractor whom the assistant assists. Where an assistant is employed by two or more contractors, the CET allowance should be claimed by and paid to the contractor, whom the assistant nominates for the purpose of payment of the CET allowance. The contractor shall make the claim to the LHB on whose supplementary list the assistant is entered (which may not be the area where the contractor is him/herself listed). The Determination provides the authorisation for LHBs to make payments in this instance to contractors who are not on their ophthalmic list.

A separate claim shall be made for each person in respect of whom an allowance is payable and only one claim shall be made for each person.

Payments must be made to contractors. Arrangements for payments to assistants are a matter for agreement between contractors and assistants and not a matter for the NHS. In cases where the contractor has provided or made available to the assistant sufficient CET to enable the assistant to meet the statutory requirements for compulsory CET (in the case of an optometrist subject to the requirements of the GOC) then the payment may be retained by the contractor. However, if the contractor has not provided or made available to the assistant sufficient CET to enable the assistant to meet the statutory requirements for compulsory CET, the payment is due to the assistant.

For ophthalmic medical practitioners the payment may only be made to practitioners who have no other medical appointment i.e. who do no other remunerative work than the testing of sight.

Practitioners are not required to produce direct evidence of undertaking CET as a compulsory part of the claim or pre-condition of payment. A claim may only be paid in respect of somebody who has maintained their professional registration. However, LHBs may conduct sample or selective checks if they deem it necessary to test the probity of NHS payments.

LHBs should make the claim form available to contractors, employed/locum optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners on their lists. The claim form can also be downloaded from the eyecare website at <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?orgid=735>

There is a three-month period for making claims, which this year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.