



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

LHB Directors of Primary, Community and
Mental Health Services
LHB Directors of Finance
Optometrists and Ophthalmic Medical
Practitioners on LHB lists

Eich cyf * Your ref:
Ein cyf * Our ref

27th July 2010

Dear Colleague

GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES – PAYMENTS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR 2009

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 2009 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 and training validly claimed between 1st August 2010 and 30th November 2010.

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 2009 is £468. 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 1st January to 31st December 2009. This year the period during which optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners may make their claims will be 1st August 2010 to 30th November 2010.

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, the claim form and the Statement 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 small mark above the 'i' in Claire.

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 1st January 2009 and 31st December 2009 is £468 and will be payable in 2010. 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 in paid time, or under an alternative arrangement agreed between them, 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 four-month period for making claims, which this year runs from 1st August 2010 to 30th November 2010.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING – CLAIM FORM FOR 2009

General Ophthalmic Services CLAIM FOR PAYMENT OF CET GRANT

OPTOMETRIST/OMP CLAIM FOR CET UNDERTAKEN IN THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2009

Grants for CET are payable to a contractor on a LHB Ophthalmic List.
A payment can be claimed by an optometrist/OMP in respect of either:

- (a) CET he/she has undertaken personally in the year to 31 December 2009; or
- (b) CET undertaken in the year to 31 December 2009 by employed/locum optometrists

CLAIMS MUST BE MADE BETWEEN 1 AUGUST 2010 AND 30 NOVEMBER 2010

Part 1: Contractor Details

Name & Address of Contractor (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Ophthalmic List number (including prefix & suffix)

Name & Address of Contractor (during 2009) **to whom payment is to be made**
(if different to above)

Part 2: Local Health Board details

Name & address of LHB from whom the CET grant is claimed

Note

For a contractor making a claim for himself or herself this should be the LHB with whom you were listed as a contractor during 2009 and for whom you provided the majority of your General Ophthalmic Services work during 2009. Payment will be made to the contractor at the address (Part 1) above.

Part 3: Details of Employed/locum optometrist

Name of employed/locum optometrist (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Ophthalmic List number (including prefix & suffix)

Where the claim is in respect of an employed/locum optometrist the claim must be made by and payment made to a contractor in respect of that employed/locum optometrist (who should be nominated by the employed/locum optometrist if they have been employed by more than one contractor). The claim is made to the LHB in whose list they were included during 2009 and undertook the majority of their GOS work. Payment will be made to the contractor as identified in Part 1. Only one payment may be made in respect of each individual employed/locum optometrist, irrespective of the number of contractors they assist or the number of LHBs where they do so. The employed/locum optometrist confirms by signing the declaration (Part 5) below that to his or her knowledge only one claim is being made in their name.

Part 4: Declaration by Contractor

I claim payment of the £468 CET grant and I declare that:

- appropriate CET was undertaken during 2009
- I am properly entitled to claim the payment
- the information I have given on this form is correct and complete.
- I understand that if it is not appropriate action may be taken.

For the purpose of verification of this claim for NHS funds and the prevention and detection of fraud, I consent to the disclosure of relevant information from this form to and by the Local Health Boards and the NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service.

Where this is in respect of my personal CET I also confirm that I am a contractor on the Ophthalmic List of the LHB from whom I am claiming this grant and that it is the only claim for the CET grant that I have submitted or will submit in respect of 2009.

For claims made in respect of the named employed/locum optometrist (Part 3) I confirm that the information provided is correct to the best of my knowledge and that appropriate action may be taken if there is proved to have been more than one claim in respect of the named employed/locum optometrist.

I further confirm that, if I have not made CET available in paid time or under an alternative arrangement agreed between us, I will pass on the payment to the named employed/locum optometrist. In the case of an employed/locum optometrist subject to the requirements of the GOC, if I have made available fewer than 12 GOC accredited points of CET I will pass on to the named employed/locum optometrist a proportion of the payment calculated either on a basis agreed between us or, failing that, pro rata, based on 12 points made available entitling me to retain 100% of the annual grant .

Signature of Contractor ----- GOC/GMC No _____

Date -----

Part 5: Declaration by employed/locum optometrist

If the claim is in respect of an employed/locum optometrist (named in Part 3) the employed/locum optometrist must sign the following declaration:

I understand that my principal is claiming payment of the £468 CET grant in respect of myself and I declare that:

- I undertook appropriate CET during 2009.
- the information I have given on this form is correct and complete.
- I understand that if it is not appropriate action may be taken.

For the purpose of verification of this claim for NHS funds and the prevention and detection of fraud, I consent to the disclosure of relevant information from this form to and by the Local Health Board and the NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service.

I also confirm that I was included on a Supplementary List of a LHB and this is the only claim for the CET grant that has been submitted or will be submitted with my agreement in respect of my CET in 2009.

Signature of employed/locum optometrist -----

GOC/GMC No _____

Date -----

PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR LOCAL BSC OFFICE BY 30th November 2010

Mid & West BSC, The Oldway Centre, 36 Orchard Street, Swansea, SA1 5AQ.

South East BSC, Cwmbran House, Mamhilad Park Estate, Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 0XS.

North Wales BSC, Preswylfa, Hendy Road, Mold, Flintshire CH7 1PZ

For BSC use

Application checked by: _____ Date _____

Application approved Yes/No

STATEMENT OF GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES REMUNERATION

The Welsh Ministers, in exercise of powers conferred by regulation 10 of the National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services) Regulations 1986⁽¹⁾, after consultation with the organisations recognised by them as representing contractors providing general ophthalmic services, makes the following determination:-

Part 1

Title, Commencement and Interpretation

Title, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) The title of this determination is the Statement of General Ophthalmic Services Remuneration and it will come into force on 1 August 2010.

(2) Terms used in the National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services) Regulations 1986 bear the same meaning in this determination as they have in those Regulations.

Part 2

Sight Test Fees

Sight test fee

2. The fee payable to a contractor for an NHS sight test carried out by him, her or it on or after 1 April 2010 is £20.70.

Domiciliary visit fees

3. The fees payable to a contractor, in addition to the NHS sight test fee, for an NHS domiciliary visit carried out by him, her or it on or after 1 April 2010 are —

- (a) £36.46 for each of the first and second patients seen at one visit; and
- (b) £9.13 for each of the third and subsequent patients seen at one visit.

Part 3

CET Allowance

CET allowance

4.—(1) In this paragraph —

“CET allowance” means the sum of £468.00; and

“relevant year” means the year commencing 1 January 2009.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (5), a CET allowance will be payable to an optician other than a corporate optician if he or she —

- (a) was included in the ophthalmic list of the Local Health Board to which he or she makes a claim for a CET allowance for a period of at least six months during the relevant year;
- (b) has undertaken appropriate continuing education and training during the relevant year; and

⁽¹⁾ S.I. 1986/ 975, regulation 10 was amended by S.I 2002/1883, 2007/122, 2007/1026.

(c) complies with sub-paragraphs (7) and (8).

(3) Subject to sub-paragraph (5), a CET allowance will be payable to an ophthalmic medical practitioner if —

(a) during the relevant year his or her only remunerated medical or optical activity was the conduct of NHS sight tests;

(b) he or she was included in the ophthalmic list of the Local Health Board to which he or she makes a claim for a CET allowance for a period of at least six months during the relevant year;

(c) he or she has undertaken appropriate continuing education and training during the relevant year; and

(d) he or she complies with sub-paragraphs (7) and (8).

(4) Subject to sub-paragraphs (5) and (6), a CET allowance will be payable to a contractor in respect of each assistant employed by that contractor if that assistant —

(a) is either —

(i) an optician (other than a corporate optician), or

(ii) an ophthalmic medical practitioner whose only remunerated medical or optical activity during the relevant year was the conduct of NHS sight tests;

(b) is included in the ophthalmic supplementary list of the Local Health Board to which the contractor makes a claim for a CET allowance;

(c) has assisted in the provision of general ophthalmic services for a period of at least six months during the relevant year; and

(d) has undertaken appropriate continuing education and training during the relevant year,

and the contractor complies with sub-paragraphs (7) and (8).

(5) Only one CET allowance may be claimed in respect of any one person.

(6) Where an assistant is employed by two or more contractors, the CET allowance will be paid to the contractor which the assistant nominates for the purpose of payment of the CET allowance under this determination.

(7) A claim for a CET allowance will be made in writing on the form approved for this purpose by Welsh Ministers.

(8) A separate claim form will be completed for each CET allowance claimed.

PART 4

REVOCATIONS

5. The determination of the Minister for Health and Social Services, one of the Welsh Ministers, made on 26 March 2010 relating to the remuneration of contractors is hereby revoked.

Signed by Simon Dean, Director of Strategy and Planning, Health and Social Services Directorate General, under the authority of the Minister for Health and Social Services, one of the Welsh Ministers.



Date: 27 July 2010