

Pharmacy & Eye Care Services
Department of Health & Social Care
4th Floor
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Peter Hampson
Secretary
Optometric Fees Negotiating Committee (OFNC)
16 Upper Woburn Place
London
WC1H 0BS

26th January 2024

Dear Peter,

GOS fees and associated payments for 24/25

I am writing to you about the NHS sight test, continuing education and training fee and the pre-registration trainers' payment for 2024/25, following the discussions that have taken place between the OFNC and NHS England. This letter also sets out the proposed approach to NHS optical vouchers for 24/25.

In recognition of inflationary pressures being faced by optometry, alongside other health and social care providers over the last 12 months, Ministers have agreed to target increases to those aspects of care expected to have the greatest impact on optometric practices and patients, namely the sight test fee and NHS voucher values. Therefore, Ministers have agreed to increase the NHS sight test fee by 1.68% from 1st April 2024, reflecting the forecast 2024/25 GDP deflator. This would increase the current fee from £23.14, to £23.53. This increase would also apply to the sight test element of the domiciliary fee. It is also proposed that NHS optical vouchers will increase by 1.68%.

It is proposed that the additional fees element of domiciliary care would remain at:
£40.80 for the first and second sight test; and
£10.21 for the third and subsequent sight test.

In respect of the payment made to supervisors of pre-registration trainees, it is proposed that this payment will remain at £4,010 for 24/25. The Continuing Education and Training (CET) payment would also remain at £596 for CET undertaken in 2023 and paid between 1st July and 31st October 2024. The freeze in these payments has been proposed to ensure that the funding available for the coming year is targeted to support direct patient care.

I am pleased that we have been able to increase fees, but I do appreciate that this is not the level of uplift the sector requested.

We will write to you separately in due course to consult on the directions needed to implement the changes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alette Addison" followed by a horizontal line.

Alette Addison
Deputy Director – Pharmacy and Eye Care Services