

PCT Directors of Finance
NHS Trust Directors of Finance
Optometrists
Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners and
Dispensing Opticians

27th March 2006

Dear Colleague

GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES: INCREASES TO NHS OPTICAL VOUCHER VALUES FROM APRIL 2006

Summary

1. I am writing to notify you of increases in optical voucher values.
2. Please could you bring these increases to the attention of all staff dealing with general ophthalmic services; clinicians, optometrists, ophthalmic medical practitioners and other staff concerned with the hospital eye service; and stationery clerks.
3. Please pay suppliers the increased voucher values in respect of all vouchers presented by patients on or after 1 April 2006.
4. Please note that the Statutory Instrument amending the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations has been laid and is available at www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk under SI number 2006 No 479 for those of you who wish to hold a copy.

NHS Optical Voucher Values

5. Optical voucher values and supplements have been increased on average by 2.5%. Details are in the Annexes to this guidance as follows:

- Annex 1: Directions under the NHS (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations.
- Annex 2: Directions under the National Health Service and Community Care Act
- Annex 3: Revised spectacle voucher values
- Annex 4: Revised voucher values for repair and replacement.

Yours Sincerely

Derek Busby
Head of Ophthalmic Services

Annex 1

Directions under the National Health Service Act 1977 Schedule 12, paragraph 2(1) and the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 1997, regulation 2(1)

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 12 to the National Health Service Act 1977 (as substituted by paragraph 8 of Schedule 2 to the Health and Medicines Act 1988) and regulation 2(1) of the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 1997 and all other powers so enabling him, hereby gives the following directions:-

1. In these directions:

"the Act" means the National Health Service Act 1977 as amended; and

"charges for glasses" means a charge authorised by section 78(1) of the Act in respect of supply of glasses under the Act.

2. Subject to paragraph 3 and 4 below the charge for glasses shall be the aggregate of the following-

(a) an amount which represents the cost to the PCT or NHS Trust, or other person on its behalf, of the purchase of their glasses or components; and

(b) an amount which represents the cost to the PCT or the NHS Trust, or other person on its behalf, of the dispensing of the lenses.

3. Where the aggregate of:

(a) the element of the amount mentioned in paragraph 2(a) above which represents the cost of lenses; and

(b) the amount mentioned in paragraph 2(b) above,

exceeds, in the case of glasses each lens of which is a single vision lens, £60.40 and, in any other case, £98.20, the charge for glasses shall be the aggregate of that £60.40 or, as the case may be, £98.20 and, except in a case to which paragraph 4 below applies, the element of the amount mentioned in paragraph 2(a) above which represents the cost of the frames.

4. Where any patient requires, on clinical grounds, a frame the cost of which is more than that of the cheapest frame in the range supplied by the PCT, or other person on its behalf, the element of the amount mentioned in paragraph 2(a) above which represents the cost of the frames shall not exceed the cost of the cheapest frame.

5. The charge authorised by section 78(1) of the Act in respect of the supply of contact lenses under the Act shall be £49.20 for each contact lens so supplied.

6. These directions shall come into operation on 1 April 2006, and shall have effect in respect of glasses or contact lenses supplied where the testing of sight leading to the supply of glasses or lenses, or the first such testing, takes place on or after 1 April 2006.

7. The direction made under paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 12 to the Act and the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 1997 concerning the charges authorised by the Act in respect of the supply of glasses and contact lenses and coming into operation on 1 April 2005 is revoked with effect from 1 April 2006.

Signed by the authority of the Secretary of State for Health.

Ben Dyson

Annex 2

Directions under the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 Schedule 2 Paragraph 6(2)

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by paragraph 6(2)(e) of Schedule 2 to the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990, and all other powers so enabling him, hereby directs NHS Trusts to comply with the Directions given by him under paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 12 of the National Health Service Act 1977 as substituted by paragraph 8 of Schedule 12 of the Health and Medicines Act 1988 and regulation 2(1) of the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 1997, dated March 2006 and coming into force on 1 April 2006.

Signed by the authority of the Secretary of State for Health

Ben Dyson

Vouchers, supplements, repair and replacement values from 1 April 2006

Type of optical appliance	Old value	New value
A. Glasses with single vision lenses of a spherical power of not more than 6 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 2 dioptres.	£32.90	£33.70
B. Glasses with single vision lenses- (a) of a spherical power of more than 6 dioptres but less than 10 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptres; (b) of a spherical power of less than 10 dioptres with a cylindrical power of more than 2 dioptres but not more than 6 dioptres.	£50.00	£51.20
C. Glasses with single vision lenses of a spherical power of 10 or more dioptres but not more than 14 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptres.	£73.10	£74.90
D. Glasses with single vision lenses- (a) of a spherical power of more than 14 dioptres with any cylindrical power; (b) of a cylindrical power of more than 6 dioptres with any spherical power.	£165.00	£169.10
E. Glasses with bifocal lenses of a spherical power of not more than 6 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 2 dioptres.	£56.80	£58.20
F. Glasses with bifocal lenses- (a) of a spherical power of more than 6 dioptres but less than 10 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptres; of a spherical power of less than 10 dioptres with a cylindrical power of more than 2 dioptres but not more than 6 dioptres.	£72.20	£74.00
G. Glasses with bifocal lenses of a spherical power of 10 or more dioptres but not more than 14 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptres;	£93.60	£95.90
H. Glasses with prism-controlled bifocal lenses of any power or with bifocal lenses- (a) of a spherical power of more than 14 dioptres with any cylindrical power; (b) with a cylindrical power of more than 6 dioptres with any spherical power.	£181.40	£185.90
I (HES) Glasses not falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 8 for which a prescription is given in consequence of a testing of sight by an NHS Trust.	£169.00	£173.20
J (HES) Contact lenses for which a prescription is given in consequence of a testing of sight by an NHS Trust.	£48.00 per lens	£49.20 per lens

Complex Lens Voucher	Old value	New value
Single Vision	£12.40	£12.70
Bifocal	£31.30	£32.10

Tints/photochromic Lens Supplement (per lens)

Single Vision	£3.60	£3.70
Bifocal	£4.10	£4.20

Prism (per lens)

Single Vision	£10.70	£11.00
Bifocal	£12.80	£13.10

Small Glasses Supplement

Supplement	£54.10	£55.50
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Supplement for Special Facial Characteristics (HES or NHS Trust)

Supplement	£54.10	£55.50
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Repair or replacement of:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
One lens	10.50	19.25	31.10	78.20	22.75	30.65	41.60	86.60	80.25
Two lenses	21.00	38.50	62.20	156.40	45.50	61.30	83.20	173.20	160.50
Front of frame	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75
Side of frame	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40
Whole frame	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70

Note:

1 Where the small glasses supplement or special facial characteristics supplement applies, the amount payable for repair of:

the front of the frame is	£49.20
the side of the frame is	£26.60
the whole of the frame is	£55.50

2 Where more than one repair is made to an optical appliance, the total paid must not exceed the aggregate of the amounts for replacing two lenses in the above schedule, and repairs to the part of the frame must not exceed £12.70.

Replacement - Contact lenses

3 If only one of a pair of contact lenses is replaced the voucher value is £49.20. These provisions for contact lenses only apply to clinically necessary contact lenses prescribed by the HES or NHS Trust.