
DIRECTIONS

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, ENGLAND

The General Ophthalmic Services Contracts (Continuing Education and Training Allowance) Payment Directions 2015

The Secretary of State for Health gives the following Directions as to payments to be made under general ophthalmic services contracts for continuing education and training allowances in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 120, 272(7) and (8) of the National Health Service Act 2006(a).

The Secretary of State has consulted in accordance with section 120(4)(a) of that Act with a body appearing to the Secretary of State to be representative of persons to whose remuneration these Directions relate.

Citation, commencement and application

1.—(1) These Directions may be cited as the General Ophthalmic Services Contracts (Continuing Education and Training Allowance) Payment Directions 2015.

(2) These Directions come into force on the day after the day on which they are signed.

(3) These Directions are given to the Board.

Interpretation

2. In these Directions—

“the Board” means the National Health Service Commissioning Board(b);

“CET allowance” means an allowance to a contractor for continuing education and training;

“contractor” means a party to a GOS contract other than the Board;

“GOS contract” means a general ophthalmic services contract within the meaning of section 117 (general ophthalmic services contracts: introductory) of the National Health Service Act 2006(c);

“ophthalmic medical practitioner” has the same meaning as in regulation 36 (interpretation) of the National Health Service (Performers Lists) Regulations 2013(d);

“ophthalmic performers list” has the same meaning as in regulation 2 (interpretation) of the National Health Service (Performers Lists) Regulations 2013;

“ophthalmic practitioner” and “register” have the same meaning as in regulation 36 of the National Health Service (Performers Lists) Regulations 2013;

“registered optometrist” means a person registered on the register; and

“relevant year” means the period commencing on 1st January 2014 and ending on 31st December 2014.

(a) 2006 c.41. Section 120(3) was amended by section 55(1) of, and paragraph 58 of Schedule 4 to, the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (c.7) (“the 2012 Act”). By virtue of section 271(1) of the 2006 Act, the powers conferred by these sections are exercisable by the Secretary of State only in relation to England.

(b) The National Health Service Commissioning Board was established by section 1H of the National Health Service Act 2006. Section 1H was inserted by section 9(1) of the 2012 Act.

(c) Section 117 was amended by section 55(1) of, and paragraph 55 of Schedule 4 to, the 2012 Act.

(d) S.I. 2013/335; amended by S.I. 2013/1869 and 2015/362.

Amount of CET allowance payable

3.—(1) The amount of a CET allowance payable for the relevant year is £535.

(2) The Board must only make one payment of a CET allowance in respect of an individual ophthalmic practitioner for the relevant year.

Entitlement to a CET allowance

4.—(1) A CET allowance is only payable by the Board if the following entitlement conditions are met.

(2) The conditions are that—

- (a) the name of the ophthalmic practitioner in respect of whom the CET allowance is claimed has been included in an ophthalmic performers list for a period of at least six months during the relevant year; and
- (b) either the conditions specified in paragraph (3) or the conditions specified in paragraph (4), as the case may be, are satisfied.

(3) Where a CET allowance is claimed in respect of a registered optometrist, the conditions are that the registered optometrist has—

- (a) performed primary ophthalmic services under a GOS contract during the relevant year; and
- (b) undertaken continuing education and training during that year which is accepted by the General Optical Council as earning points for the purposes of continuing education and training to enable that optometrist to maintain registration.

(4) Where a CET allowance is claimed in respect of an ophthalmic medical practitioner, the conditions are that the ophthalmic medical practitioner has—

- (a) performed primary ophthalmic services under a GOS contract during the relevant year;
- (b) not had any medical employment except medical or optical activity performed during that year under a GOS contract; and
- (c) undertaken continuing education and training during that year.

Claim and payment arrangements

5.—(1) Payment under these Directions is only payable if—

- (a) a claim is made in writing on the claim form approved by the Secretary of State(a);
- (b) all signatures required on the claim form are in ink and handwritten by the appropriate signatory; and
- (c) the claim form is received by the Board no earlier than 1st September 2015 and no later than 31st December 2015.

(2) Where an ophthalmic practitioner in respect of whom a CET allowance is payable is employed by two or more contractors, the Board must pay the CET allowance to the contractor which that ophthalmic practitioner nominates by way of declaration on the claim form.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Health

Gareth Arthur
A Member of the Senior Civil Service
Department of Health

11th August 2015

(c) A claim form is available for downloading from www.gov.uk.