
DIRECTIONS

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, ENGLAND

The National Health Service (Charges for Optical Appliances) Directions 2013

The Secretary of State for Health makes the following directions, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 179(2) and (3), 272(7) and (8) and 273(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006(a).

Citation, commencement and application

1.—(1) These Directions may be cited as the National Health Service (Charges for Optical Appliances) Directions 2013, and come into force on 1st April 2013.

(2) These Directions apply in respect of the supply of glasses or contact lenses by an NHS trust or NHS foundation trust by other persons acting on behalf of the NHS trust or NHS foundation trust, for the purposes of regulation 2(1) of the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 2013(b).

Interpretation

2. In these Directions—

“actual cost of lenses” means the amount equal to the cost to the Board, the NHS trust or to other persons acting on behalf of the Board or NHS trust, of the purchase of the lenses;

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

“dispensing cost” means the amount equal to the cost to the Board, the NHS trust or to other persons acting on behalf of the Board or NHS trust for dispensing the lenses; and

“full cost of a frame” means the amount equal to the cost to the Board, the NHS trust or to other persons acting on behalf of the Board or NHS trust of the purchase of, in the case of —

(a) an adult, an adult’s frame; and

(b) a child, a child’s frame.

Maximum charge for lenses

3.—(1) The maximum charge for lenses is an amount equal to, in the case of—

(a) a single vision lens, £67.30; or

(b) all other lenses, £109.40,

and “appropriate maximum charge” shall be construed accordingly.

(a) 2006 c.41. By virtue of section 271(1) of the Act, the powers conferred by these sections are exercisable by the Secretary of State only in relation to England.

(b) S.I. 2013/461.

(c) The Board was established by section 1H of the National Health Service Act 2006. Section 1H was inserted by section 9(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (c.7)

Charge for glasses

4.—(1) The charge payable in respect of the supply of glasses is determined in accordance with the following provisions.

(2) Subject to paragraph (4), where the actual cost of the lenses and the dispensing cost is together less than an amount equal to the appropriate maximum charge, the charge payable is an amount equal to the total amount of—

- (a) the actual cost of lenses;
- (b) the dispensing cost; and
- (c) the full cost of the frame.

(3) Where the actual cost of the lenses and the dispensing cost is together equal to or greater than the appropriate maximum charge, the charge payable is an amount equal to the total amount of—

- (a) the appropriate maximum charge; and
- (b) the full cost of the frame.

(4) In the case where it is clinically necessary to supply a frame the cost of which is more than the cheapest full cost of a frame in an adult or child's range supplied by the Board, the NHS trust or by other persons acting on behalf of the Board or NHS trust, the charge payable for the frame is an amount which must be equal to the cost of the cheapest full cost of a frame in the range supplied.

Charge for a contact lens

5. The charge for one contact lens is £54.70.

Revocation and savings

6. The National Health Service (Charge for Optical Appliances) Determination 2012^(a) (“the 2012 Determination”) is revoked, save to the extent that where the testing of sight which resulted in the requirement to supply glasses or contact lenses took place before 1st April 2013, the amount of the charge that may be made and recovered in respect of that supply must be determined in accordance with the 2012 Determination.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Date

A Member of the Senior Civil Service
Department of Health

^(a) Signed on 30th March 2012 and available to download from the Department of Health's website at <http://www.dh.gov.uk>