

Gateway Reference Number: 17290

PCT Chief Executives
NHS Trust Chief Executives
Optometrists
Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners and
Dispensing Opticians

22nd March 2012

Dear Colleague

**GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES: INCREASES TO NHS OPTICAL VOUCHER
VALUES FROM 1 APRIL 2012**

Summary

1. I am writing to notify you of the increase in optical voucher values and supplements by an overall 2.5%. Hospital Eye Service charges have also increased and are detailed below.
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.

NHS Optical Voucher Values

3. Please pay suppliers the increased voucher values in respect of all vouchers presented by patients on or after 1 April 2012.
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 2012 No 515 for those of you who wish to hold a copy.
5. Details of the new optical voucher values are in Annex 1 & 2:

Annex 1: Revised optical voucher values and supplements.
Annex 2: Revised voucher values for repair and replacement.

Hospital Eye Service (HES)

Maximum Charge

6. From 1 April 2012, the HES maximum charges will be:

£66.60 for single vision lenses; and
£108.30 in any other case.

Charge for Contact Lenses

7. From 1 April 2012 the charge for contact lenses will be £54.20 per contact lens supplied.

The NHS (Charges for Optical Appliances) Determination 2012

8. The National Health Service (Charges for Optical Appliances) Determination 2012 is attached at Annex 3.

Yours sincerely

Derek Busby
Head of Ophthalmic Services

Voucher Values and Supplements from 1 April 2012

Type of optical appliance	Old value	New value
A. Glasses with single vision lenses of a spherical power of not more than 6 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 2 dioptries.	£36.20	£37.10
B. Glasses with single vision lenses- (a) of a spherical power of more than 6 dioptries but less than 10 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptries; (b) of a spherical power of less than 10 dioptries with a cylindrical power of more than 2 dioptries but not more than 6 dioptries.	£55.10	£56.40
C. Glasses with single vision lenses of a spherical power of 10 or more dioptries but not more than 14 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptries.	£80.60	£82.60
D. Glasses with single vision lenses- (a) of a spherical power of more than 14 dioptries with any cylindrical power; (b) of a cylindrical power of more than 6 dioptries with any spherical power.	£182.00	£186.50
E. Glasses with bifocal lenses of a spherical power of not more than 6 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 2 dioptries.	£62.70	£64.20
F. Glasses with bifocal lenses- (a) of a spherical power of more than 6 dioptries but less than 10 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptries; (b) of a spherical power of less than 10 dioptries with a cylindrical power of more than 2 dioptries but not more than 6 dioptries.	£79.70	£81.60
G. Glasses with bifocal lenses of a spherical power of 10 or more dioptries but not more than 14 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptries;	£103.30	£105.80
H. Glasses with prism-controlled bifocal lenses of any power or with bifocal lenses- (a) of a spherical power of more than 14 dioptries with any cylindrical power; (b) with a cylindrical power of more than 6 dioptries with any spherical power.	£200.10	£205.10
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.	£186.40	£191.00

Complex Lens Voucher	Old value	New value
Single Vision	£13.70	£14.00
Bifocal	£34.60	£35.50

Tints/photochromic Lens Supplement (per lens)

Single Vision	£4.00	£4.10
Bifocal	£4.50	£4.60

Prism (per lens)

Single Vision	£11.80	£12.10
Bifocal	£14.20	£14.60

Small Glasses Supplement

Supplement	£59.70	£61.20
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Supplement for Special Facial Characteristics (HES or NHS Trust)

Supplement	£59.70	£61.20
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Repair or Replacement Values from 1 April 2012

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
One lens	11.55	21.20	34.30	86.25	25.10	33.80	45.90	95.55	88.50
Two lenses	23.10	42.40	68.60	172.50	50.20	67.60	91.80	191.10	177.00
Front of frame	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90
Side of frame	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05
Whole frame	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00

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 £54.20
the side of the frame is £29.30
the whole of the frame is £61.20

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 £14.00.

Replacement - Contact lenses

3 If only one of a pair of contact lenses is replaced the voucher value is £54.20. These provisions for contact lenses only apply to clinically necessary contact lenses prescribed by the HES or NHS Trust.