



Department of Health

17 March 2015

GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES: INCREASES TO NHS OPTICAL VOUCHER VALUES FROM 1 APRIL 2015

Summary

1. I am writing to notify you of the increase in optical voucher values and supplements by an overall 1.0%. 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 and the Hospital Eye Service.

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 2015.

4. Please note that the Statutory Instrument The National Health Service (Charges, Payments and Remission of Charges) (Uprating, Miscellaneous Amendments and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2015 has been laid and is available at www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi under SI number 2015 No 417 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

Maximum Charge

6. From 1 April 2015, the Hospital Eye Service maximum charges will be:

£69.30 for single vision lenses; and
£112.70 in any other case.

Charge for Contact Lenses

7. From 1 April 2015 the charge for contact lenses will be £56.40 per contact lens supplied.

The NHS (Charges for Optical Appliances) Directions 2015

8. The National Health Service (Charges for Optical Appliances) Directions 2015 are also attached.

Yours sincerely

Derek Busby
Head of Ophthalmic Services

Annex 1

Voucher Values and Supplements from 1 April 2015 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.	£38.30	£38.70
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.	£58.10	£58.70
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.	£85.10	£86.00
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.	£192.20	£194.10
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.	£66.10	£66.80
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; (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.	£84.00	£84.80
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;	£109.00	£110.10
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.	£211.30	£213.40
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.	£196.80	£198.80
J Contact lenses for which a prescription is given in consequences of a sight test by an NHS trust or NHS foundation trust.	£55.80	£56.40

Complex Lens Voucher	Old value	New value
Single Vision	£14.40	£14.50
Bifocal	£36.60	£37.00
Tints/photochromic Lens Supplement (per lens)		
Single Vision	£4.20	£4.30
Bifocal	£4.70	£4.80
Prism (per lens)		
Single Vision	£12.40	£12.50
Bifocal	£15.00	£15.20
Small Glasses Supplement		
Supplement	£63.00	£63.60
Supplement for Special Facial Characteristics (HES or NHS Trust)		
Supplement	£63.00	£63.60

Annex 2

Repair or Replacement Values from 1 April 2014

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
One lens	12.05	22.05	35.70	89.75	26.10	35.10	47.75	99.40	92.10
Two lenses	24.10	44.10	71.40	179.50	52.20	70.20	95.50	198.80	184.20
Front of frame	12.35	12.35	12.35	12.35	12.35	12.35	12.35	12.35	12.35
Side of frame	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.30
Whole frame	14.60	14.60	14.60	14.60	14.60	14.60	14.60	14.60	14.60

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 £56.40
the side of the frame is £30.50
the whole of the frame is £63.60

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 £14.60.

Replacement - Contact lenses

If only one of a pair of contact lenses is replaced the voucher value is £56.40. These provisions for contact lenses only apply to clinically necessary contact lenses prescribed by the HES or NHS Trust.