

National Health Service in Scotland
Management ExecutiveSt. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG*Dear Colleague***OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS:
SUPERANNUATION OF FEES IN RESPECT OF SIGHT
TESTS CONDUCTED UNDER HOSPITAL EYE
SERVICE REFERRALS****Summary**

This circular announces a change in the arrangements to allow superannuation credit to be awarded to ophthalmic medical practitioners for conducting General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) sight tests to Hospital Eye Service (HES) referrals. The effective date of the change was 1 April 1991.

Background

Under the terms of NHS Circular 1989(GEN)14 (paragraph 3) a consultant may refer a patient for a GOS sight test as part of the management of a patient's condition when no sight testing facilities are available at the hospital under the HES. In such circumstances, the GOS practitioner will complete form HES1 and return it to the hospital whose address is on front of the form. The hospital will then pay the GOS practitioner the appropriate NHS sight test fee.

These arrangements apply equally to both GOS optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners but in the case of the latter, the fee does not receive superannuation under the terms of the NHS Superannuation Scheme.

Action

However, with effect from 1 April 1991 all GOS sight tests undertaken by ophthalmic medical practitioners on behalf of the HES have been classed as superannuable and fees from that date should attract superannuation credit in the same way as all other sight tests conducted under the GOS.

Please would you bring this letter to the attention of practitioners and all staff connected with the General Ophthalmic or Hospital Eye Services, in particular Finance Departments responsible for implementing this change in procedure.

Yours sincerely
Agnes Robson

AGNES ROBSON
Director of Primary Care

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