



NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

10th July 1998

Dear Colleague

HOSPITAL EYE SERVICE: CHANGES IN ARRANGEMENTS WITH EFFECT FROM 1 APRIL 1998

- 1. THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (OPTICAL CHARGES AND PAYMENTS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1998**
- 2. INCREASE IN SPECTACLE VOUCHER VALUES**
- 3. LEAFLETS**

Summary

1. The National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 1998 came into force on 1 April 1998. The Regulations consolidate and replace the NHS (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 1989 and increase spectacle voucher values and the allowances for repairs and replacements with effect from 1 April 1998.

The National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 1998

2. The main purpose of the 1998 Regulations is to consolidate the provisions of the NHS (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 1989 and the subsequent amendments to those Regulations.
3. Some minor drafting changes have been made to clarify existing provisions, and references to legislation have been updated where necessary. A copy of the Regulations is enclosed with this letter.

Increase in Spectacle Voucher Values

4. The Regulations increase spectacle voucher values and the allowances for repairs and replacements. The new amounts are shown in the Annexes to this letter. The revised values will apply to vouchers accepted by suppliers for spectacle purchases made on or after 1 April 1998.

Addressees

For action:

General Managers, Health Boards

Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

For information:

General Manager, Common Services Agency

General Manager, State Hospitals Board for Scotland

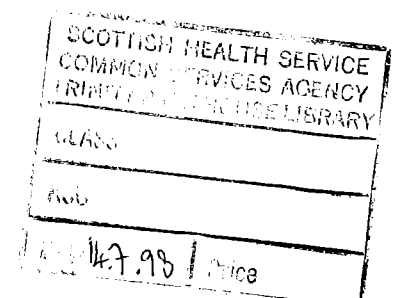
General Manager, Health Education Board for Scotland

Executive Director, SCPMDE

Enquiries to:

Mrs June Doig
PHPUI-3
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

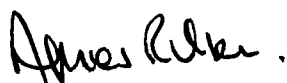
Tel: 0131 244 2506
Fax: 0131 244 2846



Leaflets

5. The following leaflets have been updated:
- **HC11** "Help with health costs";
 - **HC12** "NHS charges and optical voucher values";
 - **HC13** "Advisers guide to help with health costs".
6. Claim forms HC1 and refund claim forms HC5 are the only Low Income Scheme claim forms acceptable. Old claim forms AG1 and AG5 should be destroyed.
7. Any enquiries about the content of this letter should be addressed to Mrs June Doig, Room 430, St Andrew's House (Tel: 0131 244 2506).

Yours sincerely



AGNES ROBSON
Director of Primary Care

REVISED SPECTACLE VOUCHER VALUES FROM 1 APRIL 1998

| Voucher | Present Value £ | New Value £ |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| A | 27.20 | 28.00 |
| B | 41.30 | 42.50 |
| C | 56.30 | 57.90 |
| D | 110.60 | 113.70 |
| E | 46.90 | 48.20 |
| F | 59.70 | 61.40 |
| G | 71.90 | 73.90 |
| H | 121.60 | 125.00 |
| I | 121.60 | 125.00 |
| J | 39.80 per lens | 40.90 per lens |
| Supplements | | |
| Complex lens: | | |
| Single Vision | 4.50 | 4.60 |
| Bifocal | 24.10 | 24.80 |
| Tints per lens: | | |
| Single Vision | 2.80 | 2.90 |
| Bifocal | 3.30 | 3.40 |
| Prism per lens: | | |
| Single Vision | 5.30 | 5.40 |
| Bifocal | 6.50 | 6.70 |
| Small Frame Supplement | 44.80 | 46.10 |
| Photochromic per lens: | | |
| Single Vision | 2.80 | 2.90 |
| Bifocal | 3.30 | 3.40 |
| Supplement for Special Facial Characteristics (Hospital Eye Service) | 44.80 | 46.10 |

ANNEX B

VOUCHER VALUES FOR REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT FROM 1 APRIL 1998

| NATURE OF REPAIR: | LETTER CODES | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| | A £ | B £ | C £ | D £ | E £ | F £ | G £ | H & I £ |
| Repair/Replacement | | | | | | | | |
| One lens | 8.70 | 16.00 | 23.70 | 51.60 | 18.90 | 25.40 | 31.70 | 57.20 |
| Two lenses | 17.50 | 32.10 | 47.50 | 103.20 | 37.80 | 50.80 | 63.40 | 114.50 |
| Front of frame | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 |
| Side of frame | 5.30 | 5.30 | 5.30 | 5.30 | 5.30 | 5.30 | 5.30 | 5.30 |
| Whole frame | 10.50 | 10.50 | 10.50 | 10.50 | 10.50 | 10.50 | 10.50 | 10.50 |
| Maximum | 28.00 | 42.60 | 58.00 | 113.70 | 48.30 | 61.30 | 73.90 | 125.00 |

Note:

1. Where the small frame supplement or special facial characteristics supplement applies, the amount payable for repair of:

- the front of the frame is £40.90
- the side of the frame is £22.10
- the whole of the frame is £46.10

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 2 lenses in the above schedule, and repairs to the part of the frame must not exceed £10.50.

Replacement - Contact lenses

3. If only one of a pair of contact lenses is replaced the voucher value is £40.90. These provisions for contact lenses only apply to clinically necessary contact lenses prescribed by the Hospital Eye Service or NHS Trust.

Directions under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978, Schedule 11, paragraph 2(1) and regulation 2(1) of the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 1998

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 11 to the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978¹ and regulation 2(1) of the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 1998² and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby gives to Health Boards the following Directions:

1. These Directions shall come into force on 1 April 1998 and shall have effect in respect of glasses or contact lenses supplied where the testing of sight leading to the supply of the glasses or lenses, or the first such testing, takes place on or after 1 April 1998.

2. In these Directions -

“the Act” means the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978;

“charge for glasses” and “charge for contact lenses” means a charge authorised by section 70(1) of the Act in respect of the supply of glasses or, as the case may be, contact lenses under the Act.

3. Subject to paragraphs 4 and 5 below, the charge for glasses shall be the aggregate of the following:

- (a) an amount which represents the cost to the Health Board or NHS trust or other person on its behalf, of the purchase of the glasses or their components; and
- (b) an amount which represents the cost to the Health Board or NHS trust or other person on its behalf, of the dispensing of the lenses.

4. Where the aggregate of:-

- (a) the element of the amount mentioned in paragraph 3(a) above which represents the cost of the lenses; and
- (b) the amount mentioned in paragraph 3(b) above,

¹ 1978 (c.29). Paragraph 2(1) was substituted by the Health and Medicines Act 1988 (c.49), Schedule 2, paragraph 15(1).

² S.I. 1998/642.

exceeds, in the case of glasses each lens of which is a single vision lens, £50.20 and, in any other case, £81.60, the charge for glasses shall be the aggregate of that £50.20 or, as the case may be, £81.60 and, except in a case to which paragraph 5 below applies, the element of the amount mentioned in paragraph 3(a) above which represents the cost of the frames.

5. Where any patient requires, on clinical grounds, a frame the cost of which is more than that of the cheapest frame in the range supplied by the Health Board or other person on its behalf, the element of the amount mentioned in paragraph 3(a) above which represents the cost of the frames shall not exceed the cost of the cheapest frame.

6. The charge authorised by section 70(1) of the Act in respect of the supply of contact lenses under the Act shall be £40.90 for each contact lens so supplied.

7. Except in so far as it applies to glasses and contact lenses supplied where the testing of sight leading to the supply of the glasses or contact lenses, or the first such testing, has taken place prior to 1 April 1998, the Direction made under paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 11 to the Act and regulation 2(1) of the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 1989 which came into operation on 1 April 1997 is revoked with effect from 1 April 1998.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Scotland

Assistant Secretary
The Scottish Office
Department of Health
St Andrew's House

Directions under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978, Schedule 7A, paragraph 6(2)

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by paragraph 6(2)(e) of Schedule 7A to the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978¹ and all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby directs the NHS trusts to comply with the Directions given by him under paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 11 to the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 and regulation 2(1) of the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 1998² dated 5 March 1998 and coming into force on 1 April 1998.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Scotland

Assistant Secretary
The Scottish Office
Department of Health
St Andrew's House

¹ 1978 (c.29). Schedule 7A was inserted by section 32 and Schedule 6 to the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 (c 19).

² S.I.1998/642.