Don’t turn a blind eye...

...to the funds lost to the NHS each year when people wrongly claim help with sight tests, glasses or contact lenses

YOU CAN HELP BY SHOWING YOUR OPTOMETRIST PROOF OF YOUR ENTITLEMENT TO NHS SIGHT TESTS OR TO VOUCHERS FOR GLASSES OR CONTACT LENSES OR TO HELP WITH THE COST OF PRIVATE SIGHT TESTS

Revised March 2001
Under 16
- Evidence of date of birth, eg birth certificate, passport, Child Benefit order book, NHS medical card

16-18 in full time education
- A current Child Benefit Order book or evidence of educational status, eg letter from college/enrolment card, and date of birth

60 years or over
- Evidence of date of birth, eg birth certificate, passport, State Retirement Pension book, senior rail pass, driving licence, NHS medical card

Diagnosed diabetic
- Medical exemption certificate EC92. You must also provide details or name/address of doctor and consent for Health Board to contact doctor

Diagnosed as having glaucoma
- You are unlikely to be able to provide documentary evidence of having glaucoma. You must, however, provide details or name/address of doctor and consent for Health Board to contact doctor

Advised by an ophthalmologist that the risk of developing glaucoma is such that regular sight tests are advisable
- A letter from the ophthalmologist or the name and address of the hospital eye department which you attend
Aged 40 or over and the parent, brother, sister, son or daughter of a person with diagnosed glaucoma
  • You are unlikely to be able to provide documentary evidence of the relative with glaucoma. You must, however, provide proof of your age, eg passport or birth certificate

Registered blind or partially sighted
  • A registration certificate issued by local authorities

Income Support
  • Order book. If you have your Income Support paid into the bank or building society you may not have any proof. Don’t worry, a check of your claim will be made later

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
  • You are unlikely to have any evidence to prove that you get Income-based Jobseeker’s allowance. Don’t worry, a check of your claim will be made later.

Working Families’ Tax Credit
  • Tax Credit Exemption Certificate

Disabled Person’s Tax Credit
  • Tax Credit Exemption Certificate

NHS Low Income Scheme
  • HC2, NHS charges certificate for full help or HC3, NHS charges certificate for partial help

Complex lens
  • Prescription for complex appliance issued on last sight test
Many people receive an NHS sight test or help with the cost of private sight tests, glasses or contact lenses. But some people who claim them are not entitled to do so. People who mistakenly or falsely claim entitlement to NHS sight tests or to vouchers for glasses or contact lenses or to help with private sight tests take funds out of the NHS each year. In future your optometrist will ask you for proof of your entitlement.

The list opposite will help you check your entitlement. If you are entitled, please take proof – as shown on the back of this leaflet – with you when you visit your optometrist.

If you forget to take proof with you, you will receive the sight test and/or voucher but checks will be made on people who do not provide evidence. If you are subsequently found through checking not to be entitled to help with optical costs, you will be asked to pay the charge. You will also be served with a notice requiring payment of an additional penalty charge.
Who can get NHS sight tests only?

- People aged 60 or over
- Registered blind or partially sighted
- Diagnosed diabetic or glaucoma sufferers and someone who has been advised by an ophthalmologist that the risk of his developing glaucoma is such that regular sight tests are advisable
- People aged 40 or over who are the parent, brother, sister, son or daughter of a person with diagnosed glaucoma

Who can get both NHS sight tests and vouchers for glasses/contact lenses?

- Children under 16
- Young people aged 16-18 in full time education
- People and their partner getting
  - Income Support
  - Income based Jobseeker's allowance
  - Working Families’ Tax Credit
  - Disabled Person’s Tax Credit
  - People and their partner with an HC2 certificate
  - People prescribed complex glasses
Who can get help with a private sight test and/or voucher for glasses/contact lenses?

- People on low income (HC3 certificate holders) may be able to get help with the cost of a private sight test and a full or partial voucher – depending on their assessed contribution

If you are not in one of these groups, you must pay for a private sight test and glasses/contact lenses