

2006 No. 106

HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES

**The Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment) Regulations
(Northern Ireland) 2006**

Made - - - - - *10th March 2006*

Coming into operation - - - - - *1st April 2006*

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety^(a) makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 62, 98, 106 and 107(6) of, and Schedule 15 to, the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972^(b), with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel.

In accordance with Article 62(3) of that Order it has consulted with such organisations as appeared to the Department to be representative of medical practitioners practising as ophthalmic medical practitioners, and ophthalmic opticians.

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 and shall come into operation on 1st April 2006.

(2) In these Regulations “the principal Regulations” means the Health and Personal Social Services (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997^(c).

Amendment of regulation 19 of the principal Regulations

2. In regulation 19 of the principal Regulations (redemption value of voucher for replacement or repair) –

- (a) in paragraph (1)(b) for “£48.00” there shall be substituted “£49.20”; and
- (b) in paragraph (3) for “£12.40” there shall be substituted “£12.70”.

Amendment of the Schedules to the principal Regulations

3.—(1) In Schedule 1 to the principal Regulations (voucher letter codes and face values – supply and replacement)^(d), in column 3 (face value of voucher), for each amount specified in column 1

(a) See S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1) Article 3(6)

(b) S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14) as amended by Article 3(2) of, and paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to, the Health and Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1984 (S.I. 1984/1158 (N.I. 8)); paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 8 of the Health and Medicines (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 (S.I. 1988/2249 (N.I. 24)); Article 34 of, and Part II of Schedule 5 to, the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (S.I. 1991/194 (N.I. 1)) there are other amendments which are not relevant

(c) S.R. 1997 No. 191; relevant amending Regulations are S.R. 1998 No. 86, S.R. 1999 Nos. 111 and 394, S.R. 2000 No. 51, S.R. 2001 No. 133, S.R. 2002 No. 85, S.R. 2003 Nos. 176 and 424, S.R. 2004 Nos. 92, 113, 162 and 188 and S.R. 2005 No. 71

(d) Schedule 1 is substituted by the Schedule to S.R. 1999 No. 111 and amended by S.R. 2005 No. 71

of the Table below (old amount) there shall be substituted the amount specified in relation to it in column 2 of that Table (new amount).

TABLE

<i>Column 1</i> <i>Old amount</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>New amount</i>
£32.90	£33.70
£50.00	£51.20
£73.10	£74.90
£165.00	£169.10
£56.80	£58.20
£72.20	£74.00
£93.60	£95.90
£181.40	£185.90
£169.00	£173.20
£48.00	£49.20

(2) In Schedule 2 to the principal Regulations (prisms, tints, photochromic lenses, small and special glasses and complex appliances) –

- (a) in paragraph 1(1)(a) (prism – single vision lens) for “£10.70” there shall be substituted “£11.00”;
- (b) in paragraph 1(1)(b) (prism – other lens) for “£12.80” there shall be substituted “£13.10”;
- (c) in paragraph 1(1)(c) (single vision tinted lens) for “£3.60” there shall be substituted “£3.70”;
- (d) in paragraph 1(1)(d) (other tinted lens) for “£4.10” there shall be substituted “£4.20”;
- (e) in paragraph 1(1)(e) (small glasses) –
 - (i) in sub-head (i) for “£54.10” there shall be substituted “£55.50”;
 - (ii) in sub-head (ii) for “£48.00” there shall be substituted “£49.20”; and
 - (iii) in sub-head (iii) for “£26.00” there shall be substituted “£26.60”;
- (f) in paragraph 1(1)(g) (specially manufactured frames) for “£54.10” there shall be substituted “£55.50”;
- (g) in paragraph 2(a) (minimum complex appliance payment – single vision lenses) for “£12.40” there shall be substituted “£12.70”; and
- (h) in paragraph 2(b) (minimum complex appliance payment – other cases) for “£31.30” there shall be substituted “£32.10”.

(3) For Schedule 3 to the principal Regulations (voucher value – repair)(a), there shall be substituted Schedule 3 as set out in the Schedule to these Regulations.

(a) Schedule 3 is substituted by the Schedule to S.R. 2005 No. 71

Application of Regulations 2 and 3

4. The amendments made in regulations 2 and 3 apply only in relation to a voucher accepted or used pursuant to regulation 12 or regulation 17 of the principal Regulations on or after 1st April 2006.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on 10th March 2006.

A circular official seal containing the initials "L.S." in a bold, sans-serif font.

C. Jendoubi

A senior officer of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

The Department of Finance and Personnel hereby approves the foregoing Regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel on 10th March 2006.

A circular official seal containing the initials "L.S." in a bold, sans-serif font.

Jack Layberry

A senior officer of the Department of Finance and Personnel

SCHEDULE

Regulation 3(3)

TO THE PRINCIPAL REGULATIONS AS SUBSTITUTED BY
THESE REGULATIONS

“SCHEDULE 3

Regulations 19(2) and (3)

VOUCHER VALUE REPAIR

Nature of repair	<i>Letter Codes – Values</i>								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Repair or replacement of One lens	10.50	19.25	31.10	78.20	22.75	30.65	41.60	86.60	80.25
Repair or replacement of Two lenses	21.00	38.50	62.20	156.40	45.50	61.30	83.20	173.20	160.50
Repair or replacement of:									
the front of a frame	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75
a side of a frame	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40
the whole frame	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations further amend the Health and Personal Social Services (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (“the principal Regulations”) which provide for payments to be made, by means of a voucher system, in respect of costs incurred by certain categories of persons in connection with the supply, replacement and repair of optical appliances.

Regulation 2 amends regulation 19 of the principal Regulations to increase the redemption value of a voucher issued towards the cost of replacement of a single contact lens and to increase the maximum contribution by way of a voucher to the cost of repair of a frame.

Regulation 3 and the Schedule amend the Schedules to the principal Regulations. Firstly, the value of vouchers issued towards the costs of the supply and replacement of glasses and contact lenses is increased; secondly, the additional values for vouchers for prisms, tints, photochromic lenses and special categories of appliances are increased; and thirdly, the value of vouchers issued towards the cost of the repair and replacement of optical appliances is increased.

Regulation 4 provides that the increases contained in regulations 2 and 3 only apply in relation to vouchers accepted or used on or after 1st April 2006.