

EXECUTIVE NOTE

The National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2006 SSI/2006/42

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 26, 28A, 28B, 105(7) and 108(1) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978. The instrument is subject to negative procedure.

Policy Objective

The purpose of this instrument is to amend the National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services) (Scotland) Regulations 1986 (S.I. 1986/965) (“the 1986 Regulations to provide for certain allowances and reimbursement of expenses to be paid to opticians and ophthalmic medical practitioners who provide general ophthalmic services.

Agreement was reached as part of a 3 year pay deal on the NHS sight test fee that payment for loss of earnings in respect of continuing education and training (CET) would be made to opticians and ophthalmic medical practitioners without another medical appointment on NHS Board ophthalmic lists. Agreement was also reached as part of the introduction of the new NHS eye examination in Scotland that funding would be provided to each optical practice that provides general ophthalmic services in Scotland for the purchase of, or reimbursement of the cost for those who have already purchased, equipment which will require to be used when undertaking the new examination. The allowances and amount of reimbursement to be paid will be contained in the Statement which is made under regulation 10 of the 1986 Regulations.

The first CET payment and the equipment funding require to be made in this financial year.

Regulation 2(2) of the instrument amends regulation 10(1) of the 1986 Regulations (the Statement) to provide that the Statement may be amended to include the:

- (a) allowances to be paid to opticians and ophthalmic medical practitioners, other than a body corporate, in respect on continuing education and training; and
- (b) allowances, or reimbursement of expenses, to be paid to opticians and ophthalmic medical practitioners.

Consultation

No consultation has taken place on the preparation of this Instrument. Optometry Scotland has, however, agreed the introduction of these new allowances.

Financial Effect

Provision has been made within the General Ophthalmic Services budget for these allowances.

Consolidation

The Executive is aware of the desirability of consolidating regulations when an instrument has been amended on a number of occasions. Further amendments will require to be made to take effect from 1st April 2006. As the amendments will be significant, work is currently underway to consolidate these regulations at that time.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

January 2006