

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (OPTICAL CHARGES AND PAYMENTS) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2012

SSI 2012/73

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 70(1), 73(a), 74(a), 105(7) and 108(1) of, and by paragraphs 2 and 2A of Schedule 11 to, 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 (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 1998 (“the 1998 Regulations”) (SI 1998/642) to increase optical voucher values and supplements.

Voucher values are normally increased on 1 April each year but have been frozen for the last two years.

Regulation 2(2) of the instrument amends regulation 19 (redemption value of voucher for replacement and repair) of the 1998 Regulations to increase a) the redemption value of a voucher for the replacement of a contact lens; b) the maximum value of a voucher for the repair of a frame; and c) the maximum supplement for small glasses and special frames.

Regulation 2(3) of the instrument amends Schedule 1 (voucher letter codes and face values – supply and replacement) to the 1998 Regulations to increase the value of vouchers issued towards the supply and replacement of glasses and contact lenses.

Regulation 2(4) of the instrument substitutes a new Schedule 2 (voucher values – repair) to the 1998 Regulations to increase the value of vouchers issued towards the repair of an optical appliance.

Regulation 2(5) of the instrument amends Schedule 3 (prism, tints, photochromic lenses, small glasses and special frames and complex appliances) to increase the supplement values, which, with the exception of complex appliances, can be paid in addition to the voucher value.

The voucher values and supplements are increased by 2.5%.

Consultation

No consultation has taken place on the preparation of this instrument. Optometry Scotland has been made aware of the increase.

Financial Effect

The increase will be met from the General Ophthalmic Services budget.

Consolidation

The Scottish Government is aware of the desirability of consolidating regulations when an instrument has been amended on a number of occasions. However, the time and resources required to consolidate an instrument has to be balanced against the other demands being made on the Directorate. Bearing those demands in mind, it has been decided not to consolidate these particular regulations nor are there any immediate plans to do so.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
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