

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 4

Terms of Service

Referrals

26.—(1) Where a contractor, or qualified practitioner assisting the contractor in the provision of primary ophthalmic services, is of the opinion that a patient who has received a sight test pursuant to paragraph 23 or an eye examination pursuant to paragraph 24 of this Schedule—

- (a) shows on examination signs of injury, disease or abnormality in the eye or elsewhere which may require medical treatment, or
- (b) is not likely to attain a satisfactory standard of vision notwithstanding the application of corrective lenses,

the contractor must, if appropriate, and with the consent of the patient, take the steps set out in sub-paragraph (2).

(2) The steps referred to in sub-paragraph (1) are—

- (a) in the first instance, a referral to an optometrist with qualifications appropriate to the needs of the patient;
- (b) if the contractor considers that a referral of the kind specified in paragraph (a) would not meet the patient's needs, a referral to an ophthalmic hospital.

(3) Where a contractor makes a referral in accordance with this paragraph, the contractor must immediately—

- (a) inform the patient's general practitioner of the referral and provide details of the reason for the referral, and
- (b) give the patient a written statement confirming the referral has been made with details of the referral.

(4) In this paragraph, "general practitioner" means a medical practitioner registered as a general practitioner.

(5) A referral made by a contractor in accordance with this paragraph must be made electronically where the means of making electronic referrals are available to the contractor.