General Ophthalmic Services Memorandum

1 November 2010

Dear Practitioner

General Ophthalmic Services
Payments for Continuing Education and Training (CET)

1. The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has agreed with the optical and medical professions that a payment for 2009 in respect of loss of earnings associated with Continuing Education and Training will be £468.

The Payment

2. The payment is due to:

- Optometrists; and
- Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners (OMPs)

who were on the Ophthalmic List (NI) and provided General Ophthalmic Services for at least six months in the relevant year, and have maintained their professional registration. The payment is for having undertaken appropriate Continuing Education and Training which has been approved for GOS related CET purposes.
Claims

3. Claims must be made to the Business Services Organisation (BSO) by individual Optometrists/OMPs using claim form GOS(NI)CET.

4. Payments will be made to individual practitioners whose names appear on the Ophthalmic List (NI). Where a practice owner has provided or made available to practitioners sufficient CET to enable them to meet the statutory requirements for compulsory CET, then the payment may be passed by the practitioner to the practice owner. These individual arrangements are a matter for agreement between the practice owner and the practitioner and not for the BSO or DHSSPS.

5. Practitioners are not required to produce direct evidence of undertaking CET as a compulsory part of the claim or pre-condition of payment. However, the BSO, Health and Social Care Board or DHSSPS may conduct sample or selective checks if they deem it necessary to test the probity of HS payments. A claim may only be paid in respect of someone who has maintained their professional registration.

6. The claim form GOS(NI)CET is available from the BSO.

7. Claims must be made during the period from 1 November 2010 – 31 January 2011.

Any enquiries arising from this memorandum should be directed to Mrs Angela Dowds, Ophthalmic Services, Business Services Organisation (Angela.Dowds@hscni.net).

To all Optometrists and Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners providing General Ophthalmic Services

Providing Support to Health and Social Care

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