

Ophthalmic Services

General Ophthalmic Services Memorandum

25 October 2011

**To all Optometrists and
Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners
providing General Ophthalmic Services**

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 2010 in respect of loss of earnings associated with Continuing Education and Training will be **£491**.

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 (GOS) 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.

Providing Support to Health and Social Care

Ophthalmic Services, 2 Franklin St, Belfast, BT2 8DQ

☎ (028) 9053 5527 ~ 9053 5528 ~ 9053 5529

Email: Angela.Dowds@hscni.net Fax: 028 9053 5634



Claims

3. **Claims must be made to the Business Services Organisation (BSO), for the attention of Mrs Angela Dowds, by individual Optometrists/OMPs using claim form GOS(NI)CET. "CET Claim" should be written on the envelope and it should only contain the CET claim and nothing else. Proof of postage should be retained as evidence.**
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 Health Service payments. A claim may only be paid in respect of an optometrist/OMP who has maintained their professional registration.
6. The claim form GOS(NI)CET is available from the BSO and also available via the BSO website www.HSCBusiness.hscni.net
7. **Claims must be made during the period from 1 November 2011 – 31 January 2012. Late claims will not be paid.**

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

Please note all claims must be sent directly to Mrs Angela Dowds at Ophthalmic Services, BSO. All claims must be followed up by the practitioner within 3 weeks of submission to BSO.

