

To: All NI GOS Contractors

18 February 2021

Dear Contractor

Covid-19 Primary Care Optometry PPE Reimbursement Scheme

Throughout 2020/21 Health & Social Care Board, having been allocated funding by Department of Health, have worked with BSO to procure PPE for distribution to ophthalmic practices. The distribution of this allocated stock was made possible by the hard work and generosity of Optometry NI.

The process is now changing to self-procurement by practices with reimbursement. DoH has made available funding to reimburse primary care optometry practices **for PPE procured for use in the provision of services¹ to HSCNI patients for the period October 2020 to March 2021.**

At this time, funding for PPE is capped at £1.28 per service occurrence and claims will be payable upon production of receipts and the activity checked and assured against GOS and Enhanced Services activity claims submitted to the Business Services Organisation /Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) for the period in question.

Claims against activity in October 2020 – December 2020 should be submitted via Annex 1 provided with this letter as soon as possible, and no later than **Friday 12 March 2021.**

Claims against activity in January 2021 – March 2021 should be submitted via Annex 2 provided with this letter as soon as possible, and no later than **Friday 30 April 2021.** The PPE must have been received prior to 31 March 2021.

The HSCB reserves the right to request additional information on PPE procured and services provided, if required.

¹ * GOS sight tests and supply of optical appliances, the NI Primary Eyecare Assessment and Referral Service (NIPEARS) and the Glaucoma Enhanced Services including OHT monitoring and LES1 and LES2 services.

To ensure compliance with appropriate level of PPE, risk-assessed for your clinical setting, please ensure that you refer to the relevant up-to-date guidance:

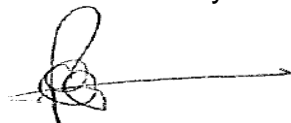
1. [Current Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information \(hscni.net\)](https://www.hscni.net/covid-19)
2. [HSS MD 20 2020 COVID-19 PPE Guidance Update.pdf \(hscni.net\)](https://www.hscni.net/covid-19-ppe-guidance)
3. [Recommended PPE for primary, outpatient and community care by setting, NHS and independent sector \(hscni.net\)](https://www.hscni.net/covid-19-ppe-guidance)
4. [COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance \(hscni.net\)](https://www.hscni.net/covid-19-ppe-guidance)
5. <https://www.college-optometrists.org/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-guidance-information/covid-19-college-guidance/primary-eye-care-covid-19-pandemic-guidance.html#InfectionControl>

Summary

1. HSCB/BSO will no longer be providing PPE to Ophthalmic practices.
2. DOH has allocated funds for practices to procure their own PPE for Q3 and Q4 of 2020-2021 (i.e. October 20 – March 21).
3. Practices must procure their own PPE and claim reimbursement using one of the forms provided with this letter.
4. Claims will be capped at £1.28 per HSCNI service occurrence²
5. Proof of purchase is required
6. Activity will be checked via GOS claims data for the period involved
7. The PPE may have been purchased prior to the period in question but received no later than that period.
8. Claims should be submitted asap but no later than 12th March 2021 for Q3 activity and 30 April 2021 for Q4 activity.
9. Late claims will not be processed
10. HSCB cannot advise where to purchase PPE products

If you have any queries about the **Covid-19 Primary Care Optometry PPE Reimbursement Scheme** or the application process please contact ophthalmic.Services@hscni.net.

Yours sincerely



Raymond Curran
Head of Ophthalmic Services
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² * GOS sight tests and supply of optical appliances, the NI Primary Eyecare Assessment and Referral Service (NIPEARS) and the Glaucoma Enhanced Services including OHT monitoring and LES1 and LES2 services.