



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Email / Address
Y Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Health and Social Services Group

Date / Dydiadd: Thursday 30 July 2020

Dear Colleagues,

COVID 19 – Progress through Amber Phase

The Welsh Government wrote to all optometry practices in June to provide details of the move into the Amber Phase of the recovery plan from 22 June. I am pleased to be able to provide further information about the re-introduction of more services during the Amber Phase.

Routine Recall

Following analysis of July data activity received from optometry practices, capacity is available for practices to recall routine patients for their due sight test; however, the prioritisation and scheduling of appointments must continue during the Amber Phase.

Prioritisation and scheduling of appointments should continue to consider the clinical needs and presenting symptoms relative to the risk of sight loss and harm to the patient. Routine appointments should only be scheduled, in line with prioritisation, if there is the appropriate capacity to do so, once all urgent and essential appointments have been managed. Therefore, active recall of routine patients can recommence from 3 August.

Domiciliary Eye Care

Following analysis of domiciliary provision in other health areas, criteria has been agreed and guidance is being developed for the resumption of domiciliary eye care. The guidance will include Standard Operating Procedures and additional action required to deliver domiciliary provision during the Amber Phase. Therefore, please prepare to recommence services from 17 August.

Financial Support

Optometry practices have continued to be supported with an average NHS monthly payment since March 17, however, as services progress through the Amber Phase, activity is increasing, which indicates a resumption in services to enable a return to the normal payment process. I will write again shortly with details of the changes to the financial support package.

Once again I would like to thank you for your patience and professionalism during this phased rebuilding of primary eyecare, please ensure that you remain up to date with the latest guidance from the professional bodies at all times as we navigate through the phases of recovery.

Yours sincerely,



David O'Sullivan

Chief Optometric Adviser / Prif Optometrig Ymgynghorol
Swyddfa'r Prif Swyddog Meddygol / Office of the Chief Medical Officer
Directorate of Health Policy / Cyfarwyddiaeth Polisi Iechyd
Department for Health and Social Services / Yr Adran Iechyd a Gwasanaethau
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



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