

Ophthalmic Services**General Ophthalmic Services Memorandum**

03 July 2018

**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 2017 in respect of loss of earnings associated with Continuing Education and Training will be **£540**.
The increase from 2016 has been approved, therefore any practitioner who received the CET payment for 2016 will also receive an additional £5.00 with their 2017 payment. A submission has been made to the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for a 1% increase in the payment for 2017 in line with England. However a decision is still awaited on this and therefore the payment is unchanged from the previous year. If the increase is subsequently approved the additional amount will then be paid to each practitioner who is eligible for the 2017 CET payment.

The Payment

2. The payment is due to:
 - Optometrists; and
 - Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners (OMPs)

who have provided General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) in Northern Ireland for at least six months in the relevant year,

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

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i.e. 2017, have maintained their professional registration, have undertaken the appropriate Continuing Education and Training during the relevant year and makes the claim for a CET allowance in writing on the form approved for this purpose by the Business Services Organisation.

Claims

3. Payments are made via BACS therefore please also complete the accompanying BACS form.
4. **Claims must be made to the Business Services Organisation (BSO), for the attention of 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 BACS form. Proof of postage should be retained as evidence of submission**
5. Payments will be made to individual practitioners who are enrolled for the provision of GOS in 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. Only one claim may be made for each practitioner.
6. 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.
7. The claim form GOS(NI)CET is available from the BSO and also available via the BSO website www.HSCBusiness.hscni.net
8. **Claims must be made during the period from 1 July 2018 – 30 September 2018. Late claims will not be paid.**

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

Please note all claims must be sent directly to Angela Dowds at Ophthalmic Services, BSO. **All claims must be followed up by the practitioner within 3 weeks of submission to BSO to ensure that they have been received.**

