



Clinical Communications Gateway e-Referral (CCG) and HSCNI secure email

Over the coming months HSCB will roll out phased access to CCG for the purposes of e-Referral. Mandatory training for optometrists will begin in late July. Secure HSCNI email addresses will be enabled for practices who have provided the necessary information. **Existing OCS users** can access these additional features through the HSC secure portal after registering with HSCB. Discussions concerning access for practices **not currently using OCS** are on-going. These practices will be considered in the second phase of the rollout.

HSCB will provide further communications on this in due course. Please contact edith.mcmullan@hscni.net for more information or to register your practice for eReferral and/or HSCNI email services.

Ophthalmic Claim System (OCS) Update

Ophthalmic practices continue to enjoy the benefits of submitting their claims online using OCS. As of the August 2016 payment:

- 211 Ophthalmic practices in NI used OCS to submit their payment claims online (77% of practices)
- 38,392 GOS payment claims in NI were processed through OCS (67% of GOS claims)

Family Practitioner Payment Systems (FPPS) Update

Optometrists will not be the only contractor group to submit their payment claims online. Soon, all family practitioners will be able to submit agreed online payment claims, search for patient information, view reports and receive regular important news and alerts, utilising BSO's innovative, free web-based portal solution. The collective name for these portals is Family Practitioner Payment Systems (FPPS).

In early October 2015 the portal for General Medical Services went online. 97% of GP practices used the portal to submit their Enhanced Service claims in July 2016, with good feedback from users and many compliments for the support and advice provided by the BSO GP payments team. BSO are currently preparing to roll out similar portals for General Dental Services and General Pharmaceutical Services, to ensure all family practitioners can enjoy the benefits of online claiming.

Did you know?



One of the major benefits of OCS is the potential to significantly reduce the volume of fraudulent claims made by some patients.

After validating a Health and Care Number or searching for a patient record using the name and date of birth, the patient record will be shown on the New Claim screen. The **Date of Last Test** for each patient will be shown below the patient's address. OCS users **must** check this prior to testing the patient. This ensures the optician will be made aware if the patient is not due to be tested and that a reason is required if an early retest is to be carried out.

A date will only appear in this field if the last Sight Test for the patient was submitted on OCS, however as around 78% of ophthalmic practices are now using OCS, the Date of Last Test is now frequently available. OCS users will not be penalised if the patient's last test was not submitted using OCS and thus not visible on this page. However if the Date of Last Test was visible on OCS and you proceed to test the patient you will not be paid for this.

Antivirus software for PCs

Sophos antivirus is available upon request for any Ophthalmic practice PC which is being used to submit GOS claims using OCS. Contact BSO for more information on installation. Alternative antivirus programs are also available online.

New version of the OCSPR form

We understand many people would prefer not to use any paper forms, however it is a probity and legal requirement that each online claim has matching optometrist and patient signatures recorded on the OCSPR form. A new, updated version of the OCSPR form with a related MOS is being issued to all OCS practices in September 2016.

The form is divided into several sections:

- PART 5 - PATIENT GOS CLAIM RECORD:** Contains fields for a. Claim ID, b. Claim Type [N / V / W], c. Exemption Category Code, d. Date, e. Signature of Patient (or on patient's behalf), f. Relationship to Patient (if applicable), g. Signature of OMP / Optometrist / Prescriber / Supplier, and h. OI / OMP Code.
- PART 4 - EXEMPTION CATEGORY CODES & PATIENT EXEMPTION DETAILS:** A table with columns for Exemption Category Code, Exemption Category Code, and Patient Exemption Details. It lists various categories like Child / Over 65, Full-time student, Income-based Job Allowance, etc.
- PART 1 - PATIENT INFORMATION:** Includes fields for Surname, Forename, Health & Care No., and Date of Birth.
- PART 2 - PRACTICE INFORMATION:** Includes fields for Practice Code and Practice Name.
- PART 3 - PATIENT DECLARATION:** A series of checkboxes for the patient to confirm their identity, insurance status, and agreement to the terms of the form.

Windows XP

OCS should run on any currently supported Microsoft operating system including Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1 and Windows 10. Using an unsupported operating system, such as Windows XP, presents the possible risk of patient data loss:

<http://www.cio.co.uk/news/security/information-commissioner-warns-firms-still-using-windows-xp/>

The Internet Explorer browser used for OCS access is built in to all versions of Windows by default. Anti-virus programs are an essential requirement for any PC to ensure data is protected. If you require any advice in relation to PC setup, please contact us.