

Sent via email

To all GPs

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Web Site: www.hscboard.hscni.net

31st March 2020

FOR INFORMATION

Dear Colleagues

ESSENTIAL AND URGENT PRIMARY EYECARE

All routine General Ophthalmic Services have been suspended due to the current COVID – 19 pandemic. This means routine sight tests and eye examinations are no longer being provided by optometry practices.

All domiciliary eyecare services are also similarly suspended.

The majority of practices are offering a reduced level of service for only essential and urgent eyecare. This may be a telephone/email advice service or virtual consultation, in conjunction with a drop-off postal service for spectacle repairs.

HSC Board is working with primary eyecare providers to continue to provide NI PEARS urgent eyecare, individually or within locality “clusters”. If a patient has an urgent eyecare problem, ask them to contact their own optometrist via phone for advice.

For the current list of NIPEARS provider practices click on link

<http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/eyes/>

In addition, the regional eye casualty service is still currently available for emergencies or urgent sight threatening conditions:

- BHSCT Eye Casualty: RVH tel: 028 9615 5872 **or** RVH main switchboard 028 9024 0503 ask for Eye Casualty.
- WHSCT Eye Casualty: Altnagelvin Hospital tel: 028 7134 5171 ask for ophthalmologist on call.

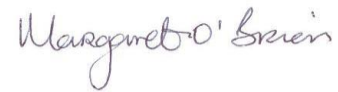
Given the nature of the current situation things are changing rapidly so if you have any additional queries do not hesitate to contact ophthalmic services at HSCB via

Ophthalmic.Services@hscni.net

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'R' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Raymond Curran
Assistant Director of Integrated Care
Head of Ophthalmic Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style, reading 'Margaret O'Brien'.

Dr Margaret O'Brien
Assistant Director of Integrated Care
Head of General Medical Services