

**Ophthalmic Services
Memorandum of Ophthalmic Service**

To all Ophthalmic Contractors

5th January 2022

Dear Contractor

**REINSTATEMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN PATIENT
DECLARATION SIGNATURES**

The requirement to obtain patient declaration signatures for General Ophthalmic Services and Enhanced Services was suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID pandemic.

As evidence now indicates the risk of transmission of the COVID 19 virus from surfaces, is low the requirement to obtain patient signatures is being reinstated.

From Monday 17th January all patients receiving GOS or Enhanced Services, i.e. HSC funded services, must sign the relevant patient declaration forms which are the OCSPR form for all GOS services and the ESPR form for all Enhanced Services.

Previously suspended probity checks on these forms will resume for all claims from 17th January 2022 onwards.

While the risk of surface transmission is low, practices are encouraged to consider appropriate infection control measures when pens are being shared.

Please direct any queries to ophthalmic.services@hscni.net