



To all Optometrists and
Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners
Providing General Ophthalmic Services

January 2014

**GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES (Amendment) REGULATIONS
(Northern Ireland) 2014**

SIGHT TEST OUTCOMES

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety have issued amended GOS Regulations to the Health and Social Care Board in respect of mobile eye service provision. These amended GOS Regulations come into operation on 3rd February 2014. A copy of the amended GOS Regulations is attached but the following points simplify the changes. **Please note that this guidance is NOT a substitute for Regulations and as a contractor you are obliged to ensure that you have a working knowledge of the GOS Regulations.**

From 3rd February 2014 Ophthalmic Practitioners (optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners) providing General Ophthalmic Service (GOS) Sight Tests are asked to note and implement the following:

1. Testing of Sight - outcomes

Amendment of Paragraph 14 of Schedule 1 to the principal Regulations has **removed** the requirement for notification of a patient's doctor of the outcomes of the testing of the sight of a patient diagnosed as suffering from diabetes or glaucoma. Please note that there is **no statutory requirement** to send any such notification.

PLEASE NOTE: In line with annual quality assurance monitoring by the Health and Social Care Board, this MOS guidance should be read, disseminated and actioned within your practice. Please ensure that all staff within your practice, professional and support (full time/part time or locum) are made aware of this amendment to the GOS Regulations and this MOS Guidance.

If you have any queries in relation to this guidance please contact Ophthalmic Services at the Business Services Organisation or one of the ophthalmic clinical advisers of the Health and Social Care Board.



Mr Raymond Curran
Assistant Director, Head of Optometry
Health and Social Care Board



Ms Paula Sheils
Assistant Director – FPS
Business Services Organisation