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**Sent via email**

To All Community Optometrists

26 July 2021

**TV LICENSING and Severe Sight Impairment**

Dear Colleague

You may be aware of recent changes to TV Licensing which removes the previous exemption for those over 75 years of age.

Exceptions are made for those living with Severe Sight Impairment (SSI).

The formal process of Certification of Visual Impairment (CVI) for SSI involves investigation and sign-off by a consultant ophthalmologist.

In order to streamline access to the concessionary license fee, TV Licensing has agreed that a communication from a community optometrist, indicating that a patient would be **eligible** for certification of SSI, will satisfy **consideration** for the concessionary license fee.

Health and Social Care Board and Optometry Northern Ireland (ONI) support this initiative as something which you might want to offer any suitable patient who requests this concession.

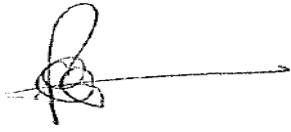
In order to assist you in this process a template letter is attached in to this communication, together with a short explanatory note on SSI certification categories. The template is also hosted on BSO and HSCB Primary Care Intranet webpages.

To assist you in determining eligibility full details on the eligibility criteria for **SSI** are found at the following link [CVI\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97842/cvi_guidance.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)).

Please be aware the HSCB, in association with RNIB and TV Licensing will be issuing some public facing communications in the coming days to promote this very positive development.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Regards

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

Raymond Curran  
Head of Ophthalmic Services.

Cc William Stockdale, Chair, ONI  
Dr Jacqueline Witherow, NI Regional Director, RNIB.