

**Ophthalmic Services****General Ophthalmic Services Memorandum**21<sup>st</sup> June 2023

**To all Optometrists,  
Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners and Dispensing Opticians  
providing General Ophthalmic Services**

**Dear Practitioner**

**General Ophthalmic Services  
Voucher Values 01/04/2023**

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in conformity with similar action taken in Great Britain has amended the Regulations from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to take account of a change in voucher values payable under the Optical Charges and Payments Regulations (NI) 1997.

Revised voucher values, together with unchanged copies of the voucher band ready reckoners, are set out in Appendix 1.

Please note that Practitioners may claim the voucher value payable on the date that the spectacles are supplied as opposed to the voucher value which was in force on the sight test date (e.g. if a sight test is carried out in March and the spectacles are not supplied until April then the Practitioner is entitled to claim the new voucher amount.

**Any arrears will be paid as soon as possible.**

## Spectacle Vouchers

### Appendix 1

	<b>Single Vision</b>		<b>Bifocal</b>
<b>A</b>	£40.29	<b>E</b>	£69.56
<b>B</b>	£61.10	<b>F</b>	£88.23
<b>C</b>	£89.56	<b>G</b>	£114.55
<b>D</b>	£201.96	<b>H</b>	£222.05
Complex Lens Supplement	£14.99		£38.56
<b>P</b> (Prism) when clinically necessary		£12.95	per single vision lens
<b>T</b> (Tint or Photocromic)		£15.91	per bifocal lens
when clinically necessary		£9.18	per pair single vision lenses
		£10.20	per pair bifocal lenses
<b>S</b> (Small Glasses Supplement)		£66.10	

### Glasses with single vision lenses -

- A** of a spherical power of not more than 6 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 2 dioptries.
- B** (a) of a spherical power of more than 6 dioptries but less than 10 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptries.  
(b) of a spherical power less than 10 dioptries with a cylindrical power of more than 2 dioptries but not more than 6 dioptries.
- C** of a spherical power of 10 or more dioptries but not more than 14 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptries.
- D** (a) of a spherical power of more than 14 dioptries with any cylindrical power.  
(b) of a cylindrical power of more than 6 dioptries with any spherical power.

### Glasses with bifocal lenses -

- E** of a spherical power of not more than 6 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 2 dioptries.
- F** (a) of a spherical power of more than 6 dioptries but less than 10 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptries.  
(b) of a spherical power less than 10 dioptries with a cylindrical power of more than 2 dioptries but not more than 6 dioptries.
- G** of a spherical power of 10 or more dioptries but not more than 14 dioptries with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptries.
- H** Glasses with prism controlled bifocal lenses of any power with bifocal lenses  
(a) of a spherical power of more than 14 dioptries with any cylindrical power:  
(b) with a cylindrical power of more than 6 dioptries with any spherical power.

### Voucher value for Repair or Replacement

*Replacement:* - Where an optical appliance is replaced following loss or damage the voucher is completed in a similar way to a voucher for the supply of an optical appliance and the voucher values are the same. Where contact lenses are prescribed as clinically necessary through the HES the replacement voucher for a single contact lens is £58.14

*Repair:* - Where an optical appliance is repaired following loss or damage the voucher must as well as bearing the letter code specify the nature of the repairs to be carried out. The amounts for repair are shown below.

Nature of repair to appliance	Single Vision			
	A	B	C	D
Repair or replacement of one lens	£12.55	£22.95	£37.13	£93.33
Repair or replacement of two lens	£ 25.04	£45.85	£74.26	£186.66
Repair or replacement of:-				
front of a frame	£12.85	£12.85	£12.85	£12.85
a side of a frame	£7.55	£7.55	£7.55	£7.55
the whole frame	£15.25	£15.25	£15.25	£15.25
Nature of repair to appliance	Bifocals			
	E	F	G	H
Repair or replacement of one lens	£27.13	£36.47	£49.67	£103.38
Repair or replacement of two lens	£54.26	£72.93	£99.30	£206.75
Repair or replacement of:-				
front of a frame	£12.85	£12.8	£12.85	£12.85
a side of a frame	£7.55	£7.5	£7.55	£7.55
the whole frame	£15.25	£15.25	£15.25	£15.25

### Hospital Eye Services

Patients of the HES who qualify for a voucher, through the HES, may be prescribed glasses not covered by the standard voucher values. HES Glasses not falling within any of the vouchers A to H, for which a prescription is given in consequence of a testing of sight by an HSS trust, may claim the following special voucher.

Voucher I - maximum amount £206.86

### Per Lens

Supplement for specially manufactured frames	-	maximum amount £66.10
Supplement for Photochromic lenses - Single vision lenses (per lens)	-	maximum amount £4.59
Supplement for Photochromic lenses - Bifocal lenses (per lens)	-	maximum amount £5.10

### Note:

- The amount payable for each lens where a prism is required is:
 

Single vision	£12.95
Bifocal	£15.91
- The supplement for complex lenses is:
 

Single vision	£14.99
Bifocal	£38.56
- The amount payable for each lens where a tint or photochromic lens is required is:
 

Single vision	£4.59
Bifocal	£5.10
- Where the small frame supplement or special facial characteristics supplement applies the amount payable for the repair of: -
 

the front of the frame	£58.75
a side of a frame	£31.72
the whole frame	£66.10
- Where more than one repair is made to an optical appliance the total paid must not exceed the aggregate of the amounts ascertained in accordance with column 2 of the above schedule and the repairs to parts of a frame must not exceed £15.25.



Note: - A patient who does not qualify for a voucher on grounds of low income but who requires spectacles with one or more lenses which has a power in any one meridian of plus or minus 10 dioptries or more may qualify for the Complex Lens Supplement Voucher.

Any enquiries arising from this memorandum should be directed to the **Ophthalmic Payments Department, Business Services Organisation.**