



Ophthalmic Services

General Ophthalmic Services Memorandum

30th March 2026

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

Dear Practitioner

General Ophthalmic Services Voucher Values 01/04/2026

The Department of Health NI has amended the Regulations from 01 April 2026 to take account of a change in voucher values payable under the Optical Charges and Payments Regulations (NI) 1997.

Revised voucher values, reflecting a 4% uplift, 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).

These new prices will take effect on the payment system (OCS) from the 01 April 2026 and no arrears will be paid for vouchers.

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

Spectacle Vouchers

	Single Vision		Bifocal
A	£46.42	E	£80.13
B	£70.39	F	£101.64
C	£103.18	G	£131.96
D	£232.66	H	£255.81
Complex Lens Supplement	£17.27		£44.42
P (Prism) when clinically necessary	£14.92		per single vision lens
T (Tint or Photochromic) when clinically necessary	£18.34		per bifocal lens
	£10.58		per pair single vision lenses
	£11.76		per pair bifocal lenses
S (Small Glasses Supplement)	£76.14		

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 £66.99.

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	£14.46	£26.44	£42.78	£107.52
Repair or replacement of two lenses	£ 28.85	£52.81	£85.55	£215.03
Repair or replacement of: -				
front of a frame	£14.81	£14.81	£14.81	£14.81
a side of a frame	£8.69	£8.69	£8.69	£8.69
the whole frame	£17.58	£17.58	£17.58	£17.58

Nature of repair to appliance	Bifocals			
	E	F	G	H
Repair or replacement of one lens	£31.25	£42.02	£57.22	£119.09
Repair or replacement of two lenses	£62.51	£84.01	£114.40	£238.18
Repair or replacement of: -				
front of a frame	£14.81	£14.81	£14.81	£14.81
a side of a frame	£8.69	£8.69	£8.69	£8.69
the whole frame	£17.58	£17.58	£17.58	£17.58

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 £238.30

Per Lens

Supplement for specially manufactured frames	-	maximum amount £76.14
Supplement for Photochromic lenses		
- Single vision lenses (per lens)	-	maximum amount £5.29
Supplement for Photochromic lenses		
- Bifocal lenses (per lens)	-	maximum amount £5.88

Note:

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

Single vision	£14.92
Bifocal	£18.34

2. The supplement for complex lenses is:

Single vision	£17.27
Bifocal	£44.42

3. The amount payable for each lens where a tint or photochromic lens is required is:

Single vision	£5.29
Bifocal	£5.88

4. Where the small frame supplement or special facial characteristics supplement applies the amount payable for the repair of: -

the front of the frame	£67.68
a side of a frame	£36.55
the whole frame	£76.14

5. 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 £17.58.

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 diopters or more may qualify for the Complex Lens Supplement Voucher.

Voucher Bands

Single Vision Lenses

Powers	Cylindrical				
	Spheres	0.25-2.00	2.25-4.00	4.25-6.00	Over 6
Plano – 2.00	A	A	B	B	D
2.25 - 4.00	A	A	B	B	D
4.26 – 6.00	A	A	B	B	D
6.25 – 8.00	B	B	B	B	D
8.25 - 9.75	B	B	B	B	D
10.00 – 14.00	C	C	C	C	D
14.25 – 20.00	D	D	D	D	D
Over 20.00	D	D	D	D	D

- 1 The voucher band is determined using the eye which has the stronger prescription. Therefore, determine which eye (left or right) has the stronger prescription, and follow the instructions below using the prescription for this eye.
- 2 Ignore the “+” and “-” signs which appear on the prescription.
- 3 Find the spherical power band.
- 4 Find the cylindrical power band.
- 5 The square in which the spherical and cylindrical power bands meet gives the voucher band.
- 6 Amounts allowable for any supplements (eg. prisms and tints) will be added into the voucher value by the supplier, using information given on the prescription.

Bifocal Lenses

Powers	Cylindrical				
	Spheres	0.25-2.00	2.25-4.00	4.25-6.00	Over 6
Plano – 2.00	E	E	F	F	H
2.25 - 4.00	E	E	F	F	H
4.26 – 6.00	E	E	F	F	H
6.25 – 8.00	F	F	F	F	H
8.25 - 9.75	F	F	F	F	H
10.00 – 14.00	G	G	G	G	H
14.25 – 20.00	H	H	H	H	H
Over 20.00	H	H	H	H	H

- 1 The voucher band for bifocal lenses is determined using the DISTANCE segment* of the prescription for the eye (left or right) which has the stronger prescription. Therefore, determine which eye has the stronger prescription, and follow the instructions below using the distance prescription for the eye.

*Note The exception being where the reading segment is more than 4 dioptries more powerful than the distance segment, the voucher will be determined by the reading prescription.

- 2 Ignore the “+” and “-” signs which appear on the prescription.
- 3 Find the spherical power band.
- 4 Find the cylindrical power band.
- 5 The square in which the spherical and cylindrical power bands meet gives the voucher band.
- 6 Amounts allowable for any supplements (e.g. prisms and tints) will be added into the voucher value by the supplier, using information given on the prescription.