

General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) in Wiltshire

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General Ophthalmic Services (GOS)



Bath and North East Somerset,
Swindon and Wiltshire

Integrated Care Board

GOS contracts deliver NHS funded sight tests and NHS prescription glasses. There are 2 types of contracts – mandatory (premises) and additional (domiciliary).

BSW has 85 Mandatory only contracts and 4 Domiciliary only contracts (Nov. 23).

There is no market restriction and contracts are issued providing applications meet the criteria.

Regulations:

- The National Health Service General Ophthalmic Services Contracts Regulations 2008:
 - General Ophthalmic Services are nationally commissioned services for NHS funded sight tests undertaken in community and domiciliary settings. These services are delivered by community optical practices in England ensuring a standardised foundation-level eye healthcare offer across the eligible population.
- The National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 2013:
 - The National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 2013 provides for payments to be made to eligible persons to meet or contribute towards the cost incurred for the supply, replacement or repair of optical appliances (glasses and contact lenses), or to contribute towards the cost of a sight test.

- Established BSW Eye Care Services Network reports to the Elective Care Board.
- BSW Eyecare Strategy, there are three strategic priorities:
 - ✓ Patient Communication/Information/Education
 - ✓ System Mapping
 - ✓ Optometry First (First Contact Practitioners (FCP) for community and secondary care settings)
- Strategic Action Plan with four Task and Finish Groups
 - ✓ Cataracts
 - ✓ Glaucoma
 - ✓ Medical Retina
 - ✓ Strategic Development
- Local focus:
 - ✓ Health inequalities – access to ophthalmology services (deprived areas, homeless)
 - ✓ Include ophthalmology in JSNA



How frequent should GOS sight tests take place?

Patient's Age or Clinical Condition at Time of GOS Sight Test	Minimum Interval Between Sight Test
60 - 70 years	2 years
Under 16 years, in the absence of any binocular vision anomaly	1 year
70 years and over	1 year
40 years and over with family history of glaucoma or with ocular hypertension and not in a monitoring scheme	1 year
Diabetic patients	1 year
Under 7 years with binocular vision anomaly or corrected refractive error	6 months
7 years and over and under 16 with binocular vision anomaly or rapidly progressing myopia	6 months

An optometrist can carry out a sight test at an interval shorter than those listed, and they will include the reason in Part 4 of the GOS 1 form. For example, if someone undergoes cataract surgery and needs another sight test at "the request of a medical practitioner".

What examinations take place during an eyesight test?

Refraction and examination of internal and external eyes are carried out as part of an eyesight test. Further tests are undertaken when clinically indicated as part of a routine GOS test:

- **History, symptoms and lifestyle**
- **Retinoscopy:** used to obtain the prescription of the eyes objectively
- **Visual Acuity and Refraction (vision test):** determines the prescription subjectively and how well you can see with and without lenses
- **Slit lamp examination:** microscope used to examine the front parts of the eye, and with an additional lens, can be used to examine the retina (back of the eye). Also used for additional tests such as Van Herick.
- **Tonometry:** to measure the internal pressure of each eye. This test is done if clinically indicated as part of a routine test.
- **Fundus examination:** used to examine the retina at the back of the eye (using a slit lamp with condensing lens e.g. Volk, or ophthalmoscope) to check the optic nerve head (ONH), macular, etc.
- **Visual Fields:** used to check for blank areas in the visual field, such as those caused by glaucoma, or brain lesions. This test is done if clinically indicated, such as complaints of headaches.
- **Binocular vision:** this assess how the eyes work and move together to give binocular single vision.

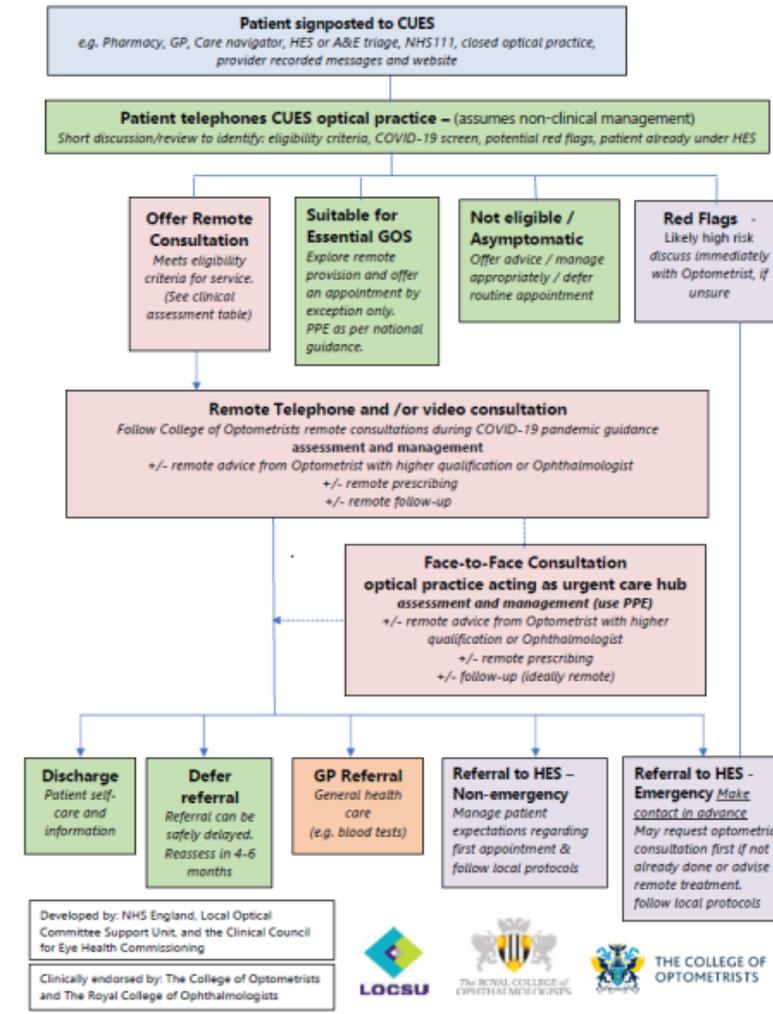
If the standard examinations listed are sufficient in monitoring people following discharge from hospital services, these can take place under GOS within a clinically necessary timeframe. This will be charged to the NHS using part 4 of the GOS1 form, for example "identified in protocols as needing to be seen more frequently because of risk factors".

Who is eligible under GOS for a free NHS eyesight test?

- Age 0 - 15
- Aged 16 - 18 and in full-time education
- Aged 60 or over
- Registered as partially sighted or blind
- Diagnosed with diabetes
- Diagnosed with glaucoma
- Advised by an Ophthalmologist they are at risk of glaucoma
- Aged 40 or over and direct family has a diagnosis of glaucoma
- In need of complex lenses (-10/+10 dioptres or more, or prism-controlled bifocal lenses)
- Prisoner on Leave
- Adults receiving, or partners of, or people under the age of 20 and the dependent of someone receiving:
 - income support
 - income based job seekers allowance
 - income based employment and support allowance
 - pension credits guarantee credit (PCGC)
 - universal credit and meet the criteria
- Adults receiving NHS tax credit exemption
- Adults holding a HC2 (full help) or HC3 (partial help) certificate
- A domiciliary fee can only be claimed for eligible patients who are unable to leave home unaccompanied due to physical or mental illness. A pre-visit notification (PVN) must be submitted for a domiciliary visit in line with regulations.

For example, someone who is 60 - 69 will be eligible for a free sight test every 2 years, once they turn 70, they are eligible for a free sight test every year if clinically necessary.

Community Urgent Eyecare Service (CUES)



Sight Tests in Special Schools



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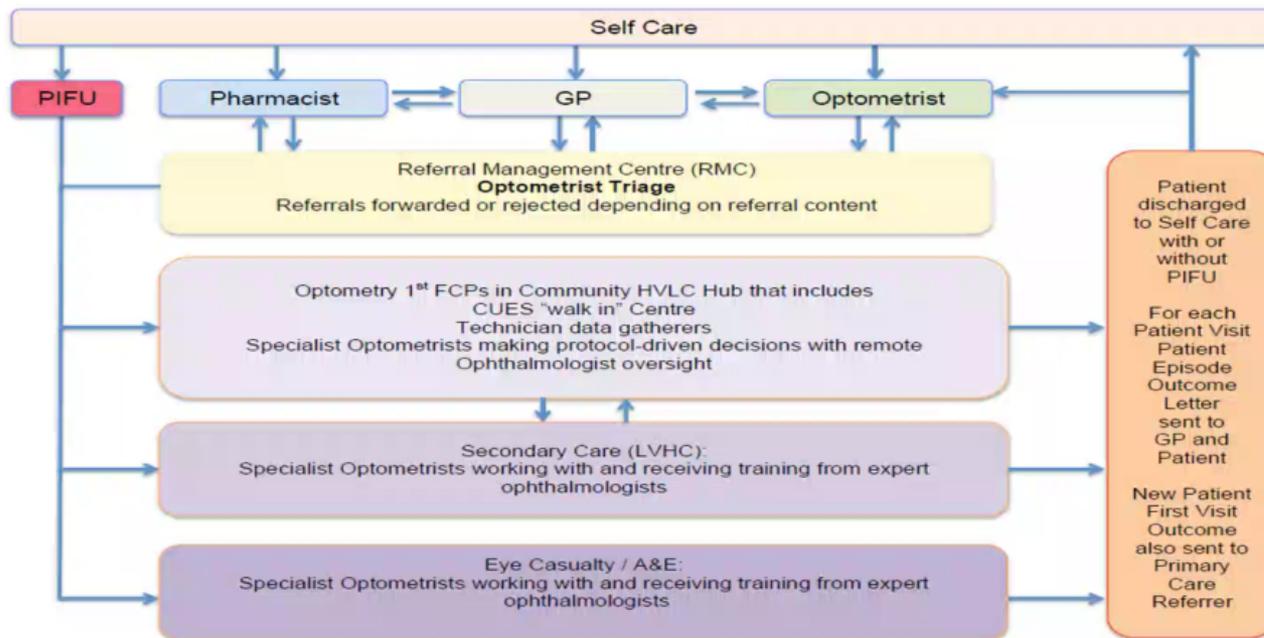
- Sight test offer to all children in both residential and day special education setting
- Every pupil eligible for annual sight test
- Each pupil to be provided with an eye health report
 - inform subsequent change in both domestic and school settings to ensure the pupil's needs can be met i.e., by way of reasonable adjustments, seating arrangements, lighting arrangements.



Draft Optometry First Pathway

Vision – Optometry 1st

Optometry First Ophthalmology Pathway
for patients with ocular signs or symptoms



Questions?

