

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (OPTICAL CHARGES AND PAYMENTS) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2009 SSI/2009/86

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 70(1), 73(a), 74(a), 105(7) and 108(1) of, and by paragraphs 2 and 2A of Schedule 11 to, the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 and all other powers enabling them to do so. The instrument is subject to negative procedure.

Policy Objective

The purpose of this instrument is to amend the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 1998 (“the 1998 Regulations”) (SSI 1998/642) to increase optical voucher values and supplements.

Voucher values and supplements are increased on 1 April each year and the increase implemented by these regulations is 2 per cent.

Regulation 2(2) of the instrument amends regulation 19 (redemption value of voucher for replacement and repair) of the 1998 Regulations to increase a) the redemption value of a voucher for the replacement of a contact lens; b) the maximum value of a voucher for the repair of a frame; and c) the maximum supplement for small glasses and special frames.

Regulation 2(3) of the instrument amends Schedule 1 (voucher letter codes and face values – supply and replacement) of the 1998 Regulations to increase the value of vouchers issued towards the supply and replacement of optical appliances.

Regulation 2(4) of the instrument substitutes a new Schedule 2 (voucher values – repair) of the 1998 Regulations to increase the value of vouchers issued towards the repair and replacement of optical appliances.

Regulation 2(5) of the instrument amends Schedule 3 (prism, tints, photochromic lenses, small glasses and special frames and complex appliances) to increase the supplement values, which, with the exception of complex appliances, can be paid in addition to the voucher value. The voucher values and supplements are increased by 2 per cent.

Consultation

The Department of Health, on behalf of the other Health Departments, has consulted on the voucher increases with the representatives of the optical profession.

Financial Effect

Provision has been made within the General Ophthalmic Services budget for the increases in this Amendment to the Regulations.

Consolidation

The Scottish Government is aware of the desirability of consolidating regulations when an instrument has been amended on a number of occasions. However, the time and resources required to consolidate an instrument has to be balanced against the other demands being made on the Directorate. Bearing those demands in mind, it has been decided not to consolidate these particular regulations nor are there any plans to do so at this time.

Scottish Government, Primary and Community Care Directorate
5 March 2009