

POLICY NOTE

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (OPTICAL CHARGES AND PAYMENTS) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2023

SSI 2023/125

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 70(1), 73(a), 74(a) and 105(7) and paragraphs 2(2) and 2A of schedule 11 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978. The instrument is subject to negative procedure.

Purpose of the instrument: To increase NHS optical voucher values by 4.5% from 1 June 2023.
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Policy objectives

The instrument amends the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 1998 (“the 1998 Regulations”).

Optical vouchers - Uprating of values

NHS optical vouchers provide financial help towards the purchase of new glasses or contact lenses for eligible persons, including children aged under 16, those aged 16 to 18 in qualifying full-time education, those on a low income and those who require complex lenses. Some people are also eligible to a NHS optical voucher for help with the cost of repairing or replacing glasses or contact lenses.

This instrument amends the 1998 Regulations by increasing the values of all NHS optical voucher categories and supplements by 4.5% for NHS optical vouchers that are accepted or used by a supplier on or after 1 June 2023. This will ensure that the values of NHS optical vouchers issued in Scotland continue to match those issued elsewhere in the UK.

Consultation

Optometry Scotland and NHS Boards have been consulted in the preparation of this instrument. Their views have been factored into the preparation of this instrument.

Impact Assessments

There are no Equalities, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Island Communities, Socio-economic or Strategic Environmental impact issues arising from this instrument.

Financial Effects

The Minister for Public Health and Women’s Health confirms that no Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment is necessary as the instrument itself has no financial effects on business and the third sector. The financial effect on the Scottish Government from the increase in optical voucher values will be met from within existing budgets.

Scottish Government
Directorate for Primary Care
Dentistry, Optometry and Audiology Division
April 2023