

**20<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Dear Ophthalmic Contractor

Please see below information in relation to COVID-19 Pandemic and Patient Declarations. Please ensure this information is brought to the attention of ALL staff in your practice, professional and support staff.

**Coronavirus COVID-19**

**Ophthalmic Services Guidance on patient signatures on patient declaration forms: OCSPR and LESPR forms.**

**A: GOS Sight Tests and Enhanced Services: Patient declarations**

In an effort to reduce the risk associated with the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19 the requirement to collect patient signatures on declaration forms for GOS eye examinations or enhanced services is being waived until further notice. Practices are asked to complete the forms in line with normal protocols but do not have to have them signed by the patient, instead they should write COVID-19 in place of the patient signature. The forms should be retained as usual and be made available for HSC review as requested e.g. at a future PPV visit.

**B: GOS Vouchers and Repair/Replacement Vouchers: Patient declarations**

If you assess that there is a risk for either a patient or staff in collecting glasses or contact lenses at the practice, they may be posted. Where possible adjust the glasses at the time of dispensing or, if this is not possible e.g. replacing broken glasses ordered by telephone, advise the patients that they may need further adjustment. OCSPR patient declaration forms do not need to be signed by the patient but should be completed otherwise and retained as normal, as above. However when posting glasses or contact lenses you are asked to obtain a receipt of postage and retain it with the patients record as evidence of supply. Evidence of these may be requested at a probity visit or other review of GOS activity.

Should you have any queries in relation to this please contact one of the HSCB clinical advisers in the first instance.

Kind regards

Ophthalmic Services

Health and Social Care Board