

To: All NI GOS Contractors

15 September 2021

Dear Contractor

Covid-19 Primary Care Optometry PPE Reimbursement Scheme

The Health & Social Care Board has been allocated further funding by the Department of Health to continue to support ophthalmic practices in the procurement of PPE during this year.

The process is continuing as self-procurement by practices with reimbursement through application to the HSCB. The application period is now open to reimburse primary care optometry practices **for PPE procured for use in the provision of services¹ to HSCNI patients for the period 1st April 2021 to 30th June 2021 (Quarter 1 of 2021)**.

At this time, funding for PPE is capped at £1.28 per service occurrence and claims will be payable upon production of receipts and the activity checked and assured against GOS and Enhanced Services claims submitted to the Business Services Organisation /Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) for the period in question.

Claims for PPE procured for activity in April 2021 –June 2021 should be submitted via Annex 1 provided with this letter as soon as possible, and no later than **Friday 8th October 2021**.

The HSCB reserves the right to request additional information on PPE procured and services provided, if required.

¹* GOS sight tests and supply of optical appliances, the NI Primary Eyecare Assessment and Referral Service (NIPEARS) and the Glaucoma Enhanced Services including OHT monitoring and LES1 and LES2 services.

To ensure compliance with appropriate level of PPE, risk-assessed for your clinical setting, please ensure that you refer to the relevant up-to-date guidance:

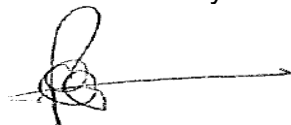
1. [Current Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information \(hscni.net\)](#)
2. [HSS MD 20 2020 COVID-19 PPE Guidance Update.pdf \(hscni.net\)](#)
3. [Recommended PPE for primary, outpatient and community care by setting, NHS and independent sector \(hscni.net\)](#)
4. [COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance \(hscni.net\)](#)
5. <https://www.college-optometrists.org/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-guidance-information/covid-19-college-guidance/primary-eye-care-covid-19-pandemic-guidance.html#InfectionControl>

Summary

1. HSCB/BSO will not be providing PPE to Ophthalmic practices.
2. DOH has allocated funds for practices to procure their own PPE.
3. Practices must procure their own PPE and claim reimbursement using one of the forms provided with this letter.
4. Claims will be capped at £1.28 per HSCNI service occurrence²
5. Proof of purchase is required
6. Activity will be checked via GOS and Enhanced Service claims data for the period involved
7. The PPE may have been purchased prior to the period in question but received no later than that period.
8. Claims should be submitted asap but no later than 8th October 2021 for Q1 activity (April – June 2021 activity)
9. Late claims will not be processed
10. HSCB cannot advise where to purchase PPE products

If you have any queries about the **Covid-19 Primary Care Optometry PPE Reimbursement Scheme** or the application process please contact ophthalmic.Services@hscni.net.

Yours sincerely



Raymond Curran
Head of Ophthalmic Services
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² * GOS sight tests and supply of optical appliances, the NI Primary Eyecare Assessment and Referral Service (NIPEARS) and the Glaucoma Enhanced Services including OHT monitoring and LES1 and LES2 services.