



OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

MOS/254

## **GUIDANCE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY REFRACTION CLINIC / HOSPITAL EYE SERVICE PRESCRIPTIONS**

The Health and Social Services Boards in conjunction with the Central Services Agency would strongly recommend that all Ophthalmic Practitioners read the following guidance and implement protocols and procedures within practice to ensure that this guidance is fully adhered to.

### **Verification of spectacles**

It is essential that all completed spectacles are verified by focimeter prior to dispensing to ensure that they are correct in relation to the presenting Community Refraction Clinic/HES voucher. It is also recommended that the focimeter reading and presenting voucher are cross checked with the spectacle laboratory order.

### **Alterations to Community Refraction Clinic / HES Vouchers**

The Health and Social Services Boards and CSA specifically ask that Ophthalmic Practitioners do not alter in any manner Community Refraction Clinic/HES prescriptions (e.g. alterations to BVD) without prior discussion with the prescribing Optometrist/OMP. If the prescribing Optometrist/OMP is not readily accessible then it is recommended that the Orthoptist at the relevant Orthoptic Clinic is contacted. Contact details for all Orthoptic and Community Refraction clinics are due to be circulated to all practices shortly.

### **Examination of Community Refraction Clinic / HES patients**

The Health and Social Services Boards and CSA recommend that community Ophthalmic Practitioners do not re-examine patients currently attending the Community Refraction Clinics/HES Clinics **unless** specifically requested to do so by the HES Practitioner. This is to ensure continuity of care and to avoid conflicting advice to patients and their families. Only once a patient has been discharged from the care of the Community Refraction Clinic/HES Clinic is it appropriate for a community Optometrist to provide eye examinations on an ongoing basis.

**The above recommendations and guidance have been issued in light of concerns about the accuracy of spectacles**



OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

**presenting at Community Refraction Clinics and HES Clinics. The Community Refraction Clinics and HES Clinics work in conjunction with the Orthoptic Clinics in the refractive management of their patients and there are often specific reasons as to why a particular spectacle prescription has been issued. If you have any queries in respect of a prescription issued by the Community Refraction Clinic / HES Clinic you are strongly encouraged to contact the relevant clinic to discuss the query. As stated above details of the relevant clinics will be circulated shortly.**

**17 October 2008**