

IMPORTANT changes to guideline on the supply of NHS Optical Vouchers

The General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) is the statutory Government Body regulating the supply of NHS funded Eye Exams and Optical Vouchers for spectacles. The document 'A guide to NHS eye care publications' (available on our website under 'Training Manuals' in the 'Education' section or at the hyperlink: <https://files.digital.nhs.uk/44/0B5E14/gene-opht-serv-acti-eng-year-end-mar-18-begi-guid.pdf>) outlines groups eligible for this financial help.

The document does not stipulate any restrictions to the supply of an Optical Voucher after an Eye Exam to those eligible for financial help. However, the GOS is now placing restrictions on voucher provision.

The optometry profession is being told an 'Optical Voucher' can only be supplied if:

1. There has been a clinical change in the prescription giving enhanced vision for the patient.
2. The spectacles are in poor repair allowing an update due to 'fair wear and tear'.
 - a. **The GOS suggest the age of the spectacles is irrelevant. If, at the time of the Eye Exam, the vision is unchanged and the spectacles are serviceable we are not allowed to issue an Optical Voucher for new spectacles.**

I feel it is important to inform patients of this GOS directive so we do not lose their confidence in our ongoing endeavour to give the best service possible.

Yours faithfully



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