

January 2026 edition



Focus

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Welcome to Focus

Scottish Government PCAs

The Scottish Government publishes PCAs providing useful and informative updates relevant to the ophthalmic profession. We invite you to keep up to date with all the ophthalmic circulars. You can access them through [our website](#).

[PCA\(O\)2025\(02\)](#) includes information on changes to GOS to support IP optometrists manage more complex anterior eye conditions. It also provides an update on tax credits and NHS voucher eligibility from 6 April 2025, and an update to the Disclosure Scotland Act, effective from 1 April 2025, covering new disclosure levels and changes to the PVG scheme.

[PCA\(O\)2025\(03\)](#) advises on the all the details relating to the Continuing Professional Development (CPD), including the deadline and process for submission.

[PCA\(O\)2025\(04\)](#) advises on changes to the GOS supplementary eye examination fee structure and the GOS-SS Interim Measure (IM) with effect from 1 August 2025. It also provided further information regarding GOS-SS Full Implementation and how this will impact health board anterior eye schemes and access to NHS pharmaceutical services.

This PCA also advises on several amendments that have been made to the submission of payment claims, including processing HES(S)3 vouchers digitally, effective from 1 August 2025, removing the need to post paper claims. Practitioners can now also transpose HES(S)3 vouchers, mirroring the policy for GOS(S)3 vouchers. This PCA further advises on a new mandatory equipment standard for portable slit lamps when providing GOS in a domiciliary setting. This PCA also includes a link to listen to the online event held on the 2nd of July delivered by the Scottish Government in partnership with NSS, NHS Education for Scotland, Glasgow Caledonian University and the University of the Highlands and Islands where changes to GOS, new payment claim forms for GOS and optical vouchers, and an update on the new MOptom (IP) course were discussed.

[PCA\(O\)2025\(05\)](#) provided information on the 4% remuneration increase for GOS and CGS and details when and how these increases will come into effect. It also advises that the pre-registration trainee optometrist supervisor grant increased by 4% effective 1 April 2025.

[PCA\(O\)2025\(06\)](#) discussed the launch of a new digital application within TURAS enabling optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners' access to relevant data held about them by health boards in relation to GOS and CGS. If you have not yet enrolled in this application, guidance is available on the [eyes.nhs.scot](#) website. The Optometry Enhanced Services (Community Glaucoma Service) (Scotland) Directions 2025 ("the 2025 Directions") come into force on 1 October 2025: further information is provided in the PCA and on the [eye.nhs.scot](#) website.

[PCA\(O\)2025\(07\)](#) provides an update on the rollout of CGS across Scotland. The first high level objective, to be delivered by March 2026, requires CGS to be live in all health boards

(except Orkney). By March 2027, the aim is for all boards to have discharged at least 70% of eligible patients from HES to CGS Accredited Providers and have business as usual processes in place to discharge all eligible patients.

[**PCA\(O\)2025\(08\)**](#) advises on the Full Implementation of the GOS Specialist Supplementary eye examination service. The legalisation needed for the full implementation comes in to effect on the 19th of January 2026.

[**PCA\(O\)2026\(01\)**](#) advises on the Full Implementation of the GOS Specialist Supplementary eye examination service which came into effect on the 19th January 2026 and discusses recent enhancements made to NHS Inform.

Scottish optometry stakeholder events

As you may be aware, in 2025 the Scottish Government delivered a series of in-person and online events in partnership with NHS National Services Scotland (NSS), NHS Education for Scotland (NES), Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) and the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI).

The purpose of the events was to both inform and give people the opportunity to ask questions about:

- Changes to General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) in Scotland
- New payment claim forms for GOS and NHS optical vouchers
- An update on the new integrated MOptom (IP) course.

The online event held 2 July 2025 was recorded, and the recording can be accessed by opening the following link: [Online Event Recording](#).

The community optometry workforce in Scotland: supporting sustainable eye care delivery

A paper relating to community optometry workforce planning has been published by Springer Nature, which will be of interest to the optometry profession.

The paper, which is entitled “The community optometry workforce in Scotland: supporting sustainable eye care delivery” is available to read via [this link](#).

Ophthalmic clinician data access (OCDA)

You will be aware that the Scottish Government has funded the development of a new application hosted on the TURAS system – Ophthalmic Clinician Data Access (OCDA).

This application, which launched on 24 September 2025, enables clinicians to access relevant data held about them by Health Boards in relation to General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) and the Community Glaucoma Service (CGS).

The OCDA will provide clinicians with the means to submit data change requests to Health Boards on a system-to-system basis, like name/title, private address, contact details, host health board.

Some of the above data change requests will be automatically approved and then applied in the National Primary Care Clinician Database (NPCCD). Others, such as name and Host Health Board, will require the relevant Health Board(s) to review the change request in NPCCD and then approve or reject it.

Detailed OCDA guidance for clinicians is available on the eyes.nhs.scot website.

General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary

General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary full implementation came into effect on Monday 19 January 2026. **Only** Independent Prescriber (IP) optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners who have been approved by a Health Board to provide General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary service at an agreed location will be able to submit claims undertaken on or after Monday 19 January 2026.

IPs who have been providing General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary service during the interim measure but have not been approved by their Health Board for the full implementation will no longer be able to submit General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary claims using the 5.0 and 5.1 codes; this will include IPs who have not submitted an application as well as IPs who have submitted an application but are still awaiting approval. In this instance, claims should be submitted using supplementary reason codes 3.5 or 4.5 as appropriate. Claims can still be submitted using reason codes 5.0 and 5.1 for appointments completed under the interim measure (i.e. appointments dated prior to 19 January) up to 3 months from the appointment date.

For more information about the application process to become a GOS-SS approved IP Optometrist, please see this [schedule communication](#).

The following changes relate to General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary claims with a start date on or after 19 January 2026.

Full implementation covers the following ten conditions:

- Anterior Uveitis
- Blepharitis
- Episcleritis
- Herpes Simplex Keratitis

- Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus
- Infective Conjunctivitis
- Marginal Keratitis
- Ocular Allergy
- Ocular Rosacea
- **Corneal Foreign Body (not previously included in the interim measure)**

Additionally, there is now an 'Other' category. If a patient has been misreferred into the service and they do not meet one of the designated conditions, you will be able to select 'Other'.

Updates to General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary referral reasons (including intra-referrals)

For code 5.0, you can select one of the five following reasons for examination:

- Self-referred
- Referred by another optometrist
- Recall
- Referred by a GP
- Referred by another care professional

For code 5.1, you can only select one of the following three options (even though other options may be presented):

- Recall
- Self-referred
- Referred by another optometrist

For both codes 5.0 and 5.1, you can select one of the following referral reasons:

- Not referred
- Hospital
- GP
- Referred to another optometrist

The option 'Referred by another optometrist' under the reasons for examination and 'Referred to another optometrist' under the referral reasons now allow intra-referrals between optometrists. This means optometrists will be able to refer patients to General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary approved IP optometrists.

It is essential that referrals are made following the correct protocol set out in [PCA\(O\)2025\(08\)](#). Please consult this PCA and the [eyes.nhs.scot website](#) for full details on how to make a referral for General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary services, and to access referral forms.

3 Months to submit claims after withdrawal

IPs can submit claims up to 3 months from the date of their withdrawal from the service provided the date of assessment falls within the period they were approved.

General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary Part 2 validation added

There must be a Part 1 IP who has been approved by the relevant Health Board to provide the GOS Specialist Supplementary service from the practice premises for a Part 2 IP to be able to provide General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary at that location.

General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary approved location validation

General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary eye examinations should only be conducted at practices where a Part 1 IP has been approved by the relevant Health Board to provide the GOS Specialist Supplementary service from the practice premises. You will not be able to submit a claim from a location where such arrangements have not been made. The location will be validated when you submit a General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary claim.

Domiciliary visits and remote consultation for General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary

Domiciliary visits can be claimed with code 5.0 and 5.1 as appropriate.

A General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary eye examination can be undertaken using remote facilities as appropriate. Please note that a remote consultation should not be claimed if you have only asked a series of questions to the patient to determine whether an eye examination is needed. In order to claim a remote consultation, all the elements of an eye examination must be carried out apart from tests and procedures where the patient's physical presence is required.

HES3 duplicate forms

The changes to the eGOS system implemented on 1 August 2025 have enabled Hospital Eye Service (HES3) vouchers, with a start date after the 31st of July 2025, to be submitted electronically through eOphthalmic.

We are, in some cases, getting a duplicate form by email or post after a HES3 voucher has been submitted through eOphthalmic. Once the claim has been entered into the eGOS system there is no need to send us a copy of the claim by email or post.

Webform guidance

CGS

The 'Enhanced Services' section of our [website](#) contains useful information to assist you with becoming a CGS Accredited Provider, the patient registration/deregistration process, and the submission of your CGS claims. This is also where you will find the CGS Claim adjustment form if you have submitted a claim in error or a claim containing errors.

GOS, GOS-SS, HES

Following the changes introduced in August 2025, see the 'Enhanced Services' section of our [website](#) to assist you with the submission of your GOS, GOSS-SS, and HES claims.

Managing user access to eOphthalmic

Adding payment location number

Existing users that require a new store's payment location number to be added to their account must ask the store staff or store manager to phone or email us to authorise its addition. If emailing, the email must contain the username and a clear request to add the payment location number to the account. The email must also have a signature showing clearly who the requestor is and their place of work. We cannot accept the requests directly from the account user.

Removing payment location number

The removal of a location number from a user account can be requested by the user or the store's staff or store's manager. Again, this can be a telephone call or email containing the username and a clear request to remove the payment location number. If emailing, the email must have a signature showing clearly who the requestor is and their place of work.

Requesting new user eOphthalmic account

Request a new user account to gain access to eOphthalmic by completing the relevant forms

- username and password form
- personal identification number (PIN) form, if required for submitting GOS claims
- acceptable use policy form. These forms can be found on our [website](#).

Closing an eOphthalmic account

Contact us with the username and a request that the account be closed. Include details of the reason in this request. Contact us at: nss.psdophthalmic@nhs.scot

E-schedule contacts

We send a monthly email regarding the availability of eSchedule reports and schedule communications to the relevant eSchedule contacts in different practices. If you do not have an eSchedules account or you wish to update the eSchedule contacts for your practice to

receive these emails, please complete the [eSchedule contact form](#) and send it via email to nss.psd-customer-admin@nhs.scot.

eOphthalmic unlocks and password resets

To unlock your eOphthalmic account and/or reset your password, please contact the Ophthalmic helpdesk at: nss.psdophthalmic@nhs.scot or 0345 034 2458. Please also ensure that you set up security questions to verify your account. This will allow you to use the self-service to unlock your account and reset passwords if you have forgotten your password.

Providing patient identifiable information in emails

Patient identifiable information (PII) should always be sent from an NHS email which has additional encryption making sure the information is safe. Please note that we cannot process any PII information received from a non-NHS email, and we also cannot send any PII details to a non-NHS email.

If we receive PII data from a non-NHS email, we will send a separate email to advise that the respondent will have to resend their enquiry using an NHS email. You will also note that any email correspondence with PSD that contains PII data, will be labelled as: **OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE**

Practitioner Services website

Our website is designed to help you find information that is useful to you. It is a useful tool for accessing information and guidance on important areas including claims and allowances, eSchedule reports, and schedule close and payment dates. We update our website regularly. Therefore, we invite you to please take time to familiarise yourself with the information that is available on our [website](#).

If you have any suggestions for any improvements or changes to the information that is available to you, please email us at nss.psdophthalmic@nhs.scot