



Dear Colleague

**GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES (GOS) –
COVID-19: DOMICILIARY EYECARE SERVICES AND
PRACTICE INSPECTIONS**

Summary

1. This communication provides updated information relating to the provision of domiciliary eyecare services provided under GOS arrangements in Scotland during the delay phase of COVID-19. It also contains guidance to NHS Boards regarding practice inspections.

Action

2. NHS Boards are asked to urgently copy and issue this letter and the enclosed Memorandum to all optometrists, ophthalmic medical practitioners and practices within their Board area.

Yours sincerely,

Aidan Grisewood
Head of Primary Care, Scottish Government

13 March 2020

Addresses:

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information

Chief Executive,
NHS National Services
Scotland
NHS Board Optometric
Advisers
NHS Education for Scotland
Optometry Scotland

Enquiries to:

Community Eyecare Policy
Primary Care Division
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Email: eyecare@gov.scot

**MEMORANDUM TO NHS:
PCA(O)2020(3)**

Summary

1. This Memorandum provides updated information on the provision of domiciliary eyecare services carried out under General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) arrangements in Scotland, during the delay phase of COVID-19. It also contains guidance to NHS Boards regarding practice inspections.

Cessation of Domiciliary Visits

2. Scotland is now in the **delay phase** of COVID-19. Steps must be taken to ensure those individuals who are in the high risk categories are, as far as is possible, protected from infection.
3. Providers of GOS in Scotland are therefore instructed to cease the provision of **routine** domiciliary eyecare services - to include patients in their own homes as well as those in day or residential centres - with immediate effect.
4. The Scottish Government is currently developing a process to ensure financial sustainability for those practices and domiciliary eyecare providers directly affected by COVID-19. A further communication on this will be issued very shortly.

Practice inspections

5. NHS Boards are advised that, until further notice, they should consider postponing all practice inspections.

Information and advice on COVID-19

6. As set out in [PCA\(O\)2020\(2\)](#), practitioners should continue to ensure they are referring to the latest COVID-19 guidance, which can be found on the Health Protection Scotland website:
<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19/>.

Enquiries

7. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be emailed to:
eyecare@gov.scot.

Primary Care Division,
Directorate for Community Health and Social Care
Scottish Government