

# Ophthalmic Schedule Communications



January paid  
February 2026

**Welcome to the schedule communications, where you will find useful information and helpful tips**

Access the schedule close dates and payment timescales [here](#)

February paid March 2026 cut-off date: Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 5pm

## Scottish Government PCAs

[PCA\(O\)2026\(02\)](#) advises on new Directions for the CGS – The Optometry Enhanced Services (Community Glaucoma Service) (Scotland) Directions 2026.

## Fortinet (CAT 20) collection

Swan Capita attended all sites last year to collect the Fortinet device from all practices. There were a number of sites on the day that were either closed or not able to locate the device. Please email [nss.psdophthalmic@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.psdophthalmic@nhs.scot) and advise if the device (including the power cable) is available for collection, and the opening times for your practice to allow us to arrange uplift. We have over 400 practices that are yet to have their Fortinet device collected. **These need to be recovered otherwise a charge will be incurred.**

## General Ophthalmic Services Specialist Supplementary

General Ophthalmic Service 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.

## Focus

We have recently published our latest issue of Focus, where you will find many useful articles on our existing processes as well as any new developments. This issue covers Scottish Government PCAs, Ophthalmic Clinician Data Access (OCDA), GOS-SS, Webform guidance, and helpful reminders of our administrative processes.

You can access the most recent edition and previous editions on our [website](#).

## Practitioner Services (PSD) Customer Satisfaction Survey 2026

NHS NSS Practitioner Services (PSD) are keen to understand how we are performing and how you feel about the services we provide. We remain focused on continuous improvement and learning what would make using our services easier for you. Your views on what matters most, how well informed you feel, and any priorities or concerns you may have will help us understand how to target improvements to our services.

We would like to invite you and your colleagues to complete our annual Satisfaction Survey. Please feel free to share the link with any of your professional contacts.

[Take the survey here.](#)

The survey closes on **28 February 2026**. We will share the results with you later this year.

For an update on our recent and upcoming improvement work, please see [here](#).

For any questions, comments, or feedback about the survey, please contact us at [nss.psdophthalmic@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.psdophthalmic@nhs.scot).

Telephone: 0345 034 2458 | email:

[NSS.psdophthalmic@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.psdophthalmic@nhs.scot)

Visit [Ophthalmic services page on the NSS website](#)

Visit [Scotland's national website for eyecare services and eye health information – For the public For professionals](#)

