



Association of British Dispensing Opticians
Association of Optometrists
British Medical Association
Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians

Optometric Fees Negotiating Committee

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GOS CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS TO MOVE TO INTEGRATED CARE BOARDS FROM APRIL 2022

NHS England has confirmed to the OFNC that General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) will remain a national contract with terms, fees and grants continuing to be negotiated nationally.

The Health and Care Bill, currently before Parliament, will change NHS commissioning structures in England, including the establishment of new Integrated Care Boards (ICBs).

NHS England has [announced](#) plans to transfer all primary care contract management functions from NHS England to ICBs from April 2022.

This means ICBs will hold the contracts instead of NHS England regional teams. It will not affect how the GOS service is delivered; providers will continue to provide a GOS sight testing service as now, and patients will access GOS in the same way.

Commenting on the announcement, OFNC chair Gordon Ilett said: "There is no appetite anywhere in the system for 42 variations of the same GOS sight-testing and case-finding contract. This announcement builds on a constructive meeting OFNC held with NHS England earlier this month which confirmed that, when as anticipated, GOS contract management functions transfer to ICBs, the national GOS contract terms, fees and grants will still be negotiated nationally. This is the most efficient model for both the NHS and contractors and means there will be no material changes for GOS contractors or practitioners."

He added: "We hope that ICBs will add value by commissioning extended primary eye care services at scale. This will help tackle the unwarranted variation caused by the small footprints of Clinical Commissioning Groups. We will continue to work closely with NHS England and DHSC to ensure the new arrangements work well for contractors, practitioners and above all patients."

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Note for Editors

The Optometric Fees Negotiating Committee (OFNC) is the national negotiating body for eye care in England with the Westminster Parliament, the Department of Health and Social Care, and NHS England-NHS Improvement. It comprises the leaders of the UK representative bodies: ABDO, AOP, FODO and BMA (for OMPs) and works in partnerships with the College of Optometrists and the General Optical Council.