



Working guidelines on regulation changes for domiciliary providers

JUNE 2005

***THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXTRACTED AND PRECISED FROM
THE STATUTORY REGULATIONS 2005***

Testing Sight

- 1) It is important for optometrists to note that the new regulations apply to all GOS contractors, not solely mobile providers or other full time providers of domiciliary services.
- 2) The regulations became fully effective 1st April 2005
- 3) Those who were already mobile providers in a PCT area prior to 1 April 2005 should have submitted notification of intention to provide mobile services to each PCT in which they wish to operate by 16 May 2005. Otherwise they will have to wait for approval in the normal manner before being able to provide and claim for GOS domiciliary services.
- 4) The regulations apply to visits made at approved day-centres, residential centres and patients' private homes. (Sheltered housing and assisted living accommodation may be visited on the same basis as a patient's private home.)
- 5) The patient or his/her authorised representative must request the visit.
- 6) Advance notification:
 - Three or more patients at a single location – a minimum of three weeks
 - Two or fewer patients – a minimum of 48 hours
- 7) Notification details must specify:
 - Names of patients
 - Address of where testing will take place
 - Date of visit
 - Approximate time of visit (e.g. 10.00 – 14.00)
- 8) Changes by contractors from original notification:
 - Names/numbers/additions/date/time must be notified at least 48 hours ahead of visit (not including Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays)
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 - In case of date/time change, the notice must be at least 48 hours before both the original date/time and the new one
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 - Silence from PCT implies acceptance of any changes
- 9) Other permitted changes at last minute:
 - Substitution:

- i. Venues – may be substituted where providers are unable to make a visit for reasons outside their control providing the PCT has already been notified of full details of visits to both venues with the necessary three weeks notice and provided the PCT notifies agreement
- ii. Patients – up to three substitutions/additions per single venue may be made on the day WITHOUT FURTHER NOTIFICATION i.e. where it is not possible to give 48 hours notice.

Dispensing

10) The above requirements apply only to sight testing NOT dispensing.

11) Dispensing is not affected, i.e. visits do not have to be notified to the PCT.

If you require further clarification please contact the relevant organisation:

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