



ISFE and Checking of Bank Account Details for GOS and Enhanced Service Payments in England

As part of the transfer of primary care contracts, including all General Ophthalmic Services (GOS contracts), to the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB), from April 1st all GOS and enhanced services payments to optical contractors will be made via a new Integrated Single Finance Environment (ISFE) which the NHS CB has set up.

In order to ensure that all fees and payments are paid into the correct bank accounts via the ISFE, the NHS CB is collecting the relevant accounts from PCTs. The NHS CB had hoped that PCTs would be in a position to check the validity of bank account information from optical contractors, however this has not always been possible and they would like to double check the information they hold directly with optical contractors.

Following discussions between the NHS CB and Optical Confederation, we have put in place the following arrangements to allow all optical contractors to validate their details directly with NHS CB.

Optical contractors are advised to contact the NHS CB directly with the information noted below:

For **independent practices**, please complete the attached spreadsheet (Ophthalmic Template-Optical Confederation) and send it to isfe.central@nhs.net with the following information:

- the practice name and address specifying whether you hold a Mandatory GOS Contract and/or Additional Services GOS Contract (for each practice which provides GOS)
- details of the signatory(ies) or named director(s) on your GOS contract and details of each practice's bank account into which GOS and enhanced services payments should be made.
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When contacting the NHS CB, independent contractors should include their bank account number, sort code, bank branch details and the exact name of the account holder, as is specified in the form.

The NHS CB will check these details against the information that has been submitted by PCTs. Where there is a discrepancy, they will investigate.

NB the information must be submitted on the attached Excel form to upload it into the NHS CB's systems.

For **multiple and domiciliary only practice groups**, your head office should contact isfe.central@nhs.net to arrange a call back to confirm:

- Address and details of each practice (including whether you hold a Mandatory GOS and/or Additional Services Contract at each location)
- For holders of Additional Services (domiciliary/mobile) contracts only, the address and details of each Additional Services contract
- In all cases details of the bank accounts into which payments should be made for each practice (including for joint ventures and franchises)
- In all cases contact details for a nominated headoffice lead for the NHS CB to contact directly.

When they speak to the NHS CB, multiple groups should have to hand their bank account number(s), sort code(s), bank branch details and the exact name of the account holder(s).

All contractors are advised that they should treat this as a high priority to ensure timely payments are made during the transition to the NHS CB in March/April 2013 and beyond.

Anyone using this process and holding themselves out to be someone other than themselves will be committing fraud. Contractors doing so will be liable to prosecution, debarment from providing NHS services and referral to the GOC.

Please note; contractors will also be notified of this process by the NHS CB in the coming weeks.

If you require and further information, please contact your Optical Confederation representative body:

- For ABDO, Katie Docker kdocker@abdo.org.uk
- For AOP, Geoff Roberson geoffroberson@aop.org.uk
- For FODO, Rebecca Sinclair rebecca@fodo.com