

Update to *Making Accurate Claims in Wales*

The WAG has updated its advice¹ to the effect that patients aged 16, 17 or 18 in full-time education at a “recognised educational establishment” (meaning an establishment recognised by Welsh Ministers as being, or as comparable to, as school, college or university²) are eligible for GOS once they have joined an academic course and remain eligible, thereafter, during the holidays.

Students between academic years or changing schools continue to be eligible during the holidays as do students going to college or university who have an offer of a place at college or university to be taken up immediately after the long holiday, i.e. no gap year.

As with all GOS entitlements, optometrists and OMPs should ask for evidence of eligibility, i.e. conduct a Point of Service check. Patients should be able to show one of the following:

- a letter from their school, saying that either they are a current pupil;
- a letter from their school saying that they were a pupil at *School X* and are changing to another *School Y* in September; or
- a letter offering a place at the college or university to be taken up immediately after the long holiday.

If evidence is not shown by the patient, optometrists and OMPs should mark the “Evidence not seen” roundel on the GOS form and proceed to provide the service, if clinically necessary.

NB Patients in full-time education must be attending a “recognised educational establishment” as defined. Those who are educated at home or at a school overseas are not eligible although they might be able to apply for an HC2W or HC3W on grounds of income.

¹ Letter from WAG to LHBs and BSC dated 11 March 2009.

² If in doubt, contact the BSC.