

Guidance on applying for a second pair voucher

Patients are not automatically entitled to a spare pair of spectacles of the same prescription under GOS, but permission may be sought from the NHS England Regional Local Team (RLT) to supply a Second Pair in “exceptional circumstances” by submitting a [second pair application form](#). Patients who are in receipt of an HES voucher should apply to the individual NHS Trust concerned to request a second pair.

Second pairs should not be provided “just in case” where there is no evidence of need. The guidance below has been produced to explain what are normally considered as “exceptional circumstances” for these purposes.

Second pairs for children

Applications for Second Pairs will normally be approved if:

A child is aged 7 or under **and** the prescription falls into the GOS 3 band B or above **and** there is a history of spectacle loss or breakage (2 or more repairs in 6 months).

or

A child is aged over 7 or is a “looked after child” **and** they have a further illness that causes the frequent breakage/loss **and** the prescription falls into the GOS 3 band B or above **and** there is a history of spectacle loss or breakage (2 or more repairs in 6 months) **and** there is evidence to suggest that the patient’s education or quality of life is likely to be affected if they are without their spectacles.

Second Pairs may also be approved with discretion for children of any age if:

The prescription falls into the GOS 3 band is in voucher A (those children with high A values may still be at risk) **and** a clinical adviser has reviewed the case and is satisfied that the application meets the necessary criteria.

Second pairs for adults

It is rare that a request will be made for an adult to have a Second Pair, however, where an application is made the criteria for approval will be similar to that for older children.

How to apply for a Second Pair voucher

1. Complete the [Second Pair Voucher application form](#) on the patient's behalf.
2. Submit the completed application form to the NHS England RLT by secure email if you have an nhs.net account, encrypted email or by fax or post. See [here](#) for RLT contact details
3. The RLT will normally notify you of their decision within one week.
4. Once you have received a decision from the RLT you must retain a copy of the application form for your records for post payment verification purposes.
5. If the application has been approved, you should submit a GOS3 to PCSE.