

Dental & Eye Care Services
Department of Health & Social Care
4th Floor
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Tony Stafford
Secretary
Optometric Fees Negotiating Committee
2 Woodbridge Street
London
EC1R 0DG

18 March 2021

Dear Tony,

I am writing to you about the NHS sight test, continuing education and training fee and the pre-registration trainers grant for 2021/22, following the discussions that have taken place with NHS England and Improvement.

A 1.9% increase is proposed for each of these fees. I enclose draft payment directions which cover both the proposed new sight test fees and fee claimable for CET, for consultation. The drafts are subject to final legal checks and may be subject to minor drafting amendments.

On the sight test fee, a 1.9% increase on the current fee of £21.31 would make the fee £21.71. For domiciliary sight tests the additional fees become:

£38.27 for the first and second; and
£9.58 for the third and subsequent test.

For the continuing education and training payment and the grant to supervisors of pre-registration trainees increases of 1.9% would mean that the CET payment would increase to £584 and the supervisors grant to £3,762.

The new sight test fee and pre-registration trainers grant will be with effect from 1 April.

The continuing education payment will be for CET undertaken in 2020 and claimable in a window from 1 July to 31 October 2021.

I would be grateful if you could respond on the draft payment directions by close on 8th April.

Yours sincerely



Laurence Bickerton
Policy lead, Dental & Eye Care Services