



Dear Colleague

COMMUNITY GLAUCOMA SERVICE (CGS):

- CGS rollout update;
- Cohort 4 for the NHS Education for Scotland Glaucoma Award Training (NESGAT) qualification;
- NESGAT cohort 4 application process;
- Timeline associated with NESGAT cohort 4 applications;
- CGS Minimum Data Set;
- Transition to digitised solution for CGS claims.

Summary

1. This letter advises on:
 - Progress in respect of the rollout of the CGS across Scotland;
 - Information for potential applicants for cohort 4 of the NESGAT qualification;
 - The process for applying to undertake NESGAT training as part of cohort 4;
 - Key dates associated with applications for NESGAT cohort 4;
 - The CGS Minimum Data Set, which supports uniformity of data recording for the CGS;
 - Key dates associated with the transition to a digitised solution for CGS registration and assessment claims.

Action

2. Health Boards are asked to immediately copy and issue the Memorandum to this letter to all:
 - optometrists, ophthalmic medical practitioners and body corporates on their Ophthalmic Lists;
 - community optometry practices in their Health Board area.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Ferris

Deputy Director
Dentistry, Optometry and Audiology Division

24 June 2024

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, Health Boards

For information

Chief Executive,
NHS National Services
Scotland

Health Board Optometric
Advisers

Enquiries to:

nss.psdophthalmic@nhs.scot

(for queries relating to the digitised solution for CGS registration and assessment claims)

eyecare@gov.scot (for any other queries)

**MEMORANDUM TO NHS:
PCA(O)2024(03)**

Summary

1. This Memorandum advises on the following:
 - Progress in respect of the rollout of the Community Glaucoma Service (CGS) across Scotland;
 - Information for potential applicants for cohort 4 of the NHS Education Scotland Glaucoma Award Training (NESGAT) qualification;
 - The process for applying to undertake NESGAT training as part of cohort 4;
 - Key dates associated with applications for NESGAT cohort 4;
 - The CGS Minimum Data Set, which supports uniformity of data recording for the CGS;
 - Key dates associated with the transition to a digitised solution for CGS registration and assessment claims.

CGS Rollout Update

2. All Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) areas across NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and NHS Lanarkshire are now live for the CGS.
3. With the exception of NHS Borders and NHS Orkney, discussions have been held with all remaining Health Boards to work towards rolling out the CGS in their areas by the end of 2024/25.
4. The Scottish Government will continue to work with colleagues in NHS Borders and NHS Orkney to determine when it may be possible to commence the rollout of the CGS in these areas.

NESGAT Cohort 4

5. NESGAT cohort 3 completed in March 2024, with 22 Independent Prescriber (IP) optometrists successfully achieving the qualification.
6. In order to provide sufficient capacity to manage the anticipated volume of patients to be discharged from the Hospital Eye Service, a fourth cohort of NESGAT training has been scheduled.

7. Places within cohort 4 have been allocated to the following areas:

| Health Board | HSCP |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| NHS Ayrshire & Arran | South Ayrshire |
| NHS Borders | Borders |
| NHS Dumfries & Galloway | Scottish Borders |
| NHS Fife | Fife |
| NHS Forth Valley | Falkirk |
| NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde | East Renfrewshire |
| NHS Grampian | Aberdeen City |
| | Aberdeenshire |
| | Moray |
| NHS Highland | Argyll & Bute |
| NHS Lothian | Edinburgh City |
| | East Lothian |
| | Midlothian |
| | West Lothian |
| NHS Orkney | Orkney |
| NHS Shetland | Shetland |

8. It is anticipated that NESGAT cohort 4 will commence in January 2025.

Applications for NESGAT Cohort 4

9. An IP optometrist currently listed as working within these areas and who wishes to apply to take part in NESGAT cohort 4 may do so only where they have been engaged by an optometrist included on Part 1 of the relevant Health Board's Ophthalmic List who also wishes to become registered as a CGS Accredited Provider. The NESGAT applicant can be the same person as the Accredited Provider applicant.
10. Optometrists who are currently not IP qualified but are expected to achieve this status by the NESGAT cohort 4 commencement date, and who are interested in applying for a place for NESGAT cohort 4, are encouraged to make specific contact with the relevant Health Board to discuss further (the relevant Board Optometric Adviser should be part of that discussion). This is particularly relevant to those practising in areas where IP coverage is low.
11. Application for a place may only be made on the condition that the optometrist is committing, post qualification, to provide services within the CGS.

12. Prior to applying, optometrists may find it helpful to do the following:

- Review the content held on the NESGAT page on [TURAS](#);
- Discuss the demands of the NESGAT course with an optometrist in your area who already holds the qualification – graduates of cohort 3 may be best placed to do this;
- Familiarise themselves with the [legislation for the CGS](#) (currently The Optometry Enhanced Services (Glaucoma) (Scotland) Directions 2023);
- Familiarise themselves with the [CGS Patient Risk Stratification guidance](#), which the CGS Clinical Governance Group (CCG) has produced to support the risk stratification and safe discharge of patients into the CGS. Please contact your Health Board if you do not have the username and password details required to access this webpage or any other page similarly restricted on the eyes.nhs.scot website.

13. Application forms to become registered for the provision of the CGS can be accessed on the [eyes.nhs.scot](#) website.

14. Approval of applications will be at the discretion of the Health Board to which the application applies.

Deadline for Submission of NESGAT Cohort 4 Applications

15. Submission of applications **must** be made from the applicant's NHS email address to the Health Board to which the application applies. If an applicant does not have an NHS email address, they should contact their Host Health Board (the Health Board in which the applicant undertakes the majority of their General Ophthalmic Services activity) to discuss the process for obtaining one.

16. Applications may be submitted between **Monday 24 June 2024 and Sunday 21 July 2024 inclusive.**

17. Applicants should be notified regarding the outcome of their application by the relevant Health Board **no later than Friday 9 August 2024.**

CGS Minimum Data Set for Assessments

18. The CGS CGG has published a [Minimum Data Set for Assessments document](#).

19. This has been created to support:

- Uniformity of data across the CGS;
- Assurance of minimum standards for the service;

- To aid development of a CGS pathway within the electronic patient record (OpenEyes);
- To aid national clinical audit.

20. The document sets out the data to be captured as part of primary and supplementary CGS assessments. It does not replace clinical judgement and CGS Accredited Clinicians should carry out all examinations that they feel are appropriate for the assessment of the registered patient.

Transition to digitised solution for CGS registration and assessment claims

21. Since March 2023, Practitioner Services Division (PSD) of NHS National Services Scotland has been operating a temporary submission process for CGS registration and assessment claims whereby relevant PDF forms had to be submitted to PSD via NHS email.

22. This process will cease on **Monday 1 July 2024 at 16:00** and PDF submissions will no longer be accepted after this date.

23. Digital submissions for registration and assessment claims will be operational from **Thursday 25 July 2024**.

24. This new digital service will closely resemble the functionality of the eOphthalmic web forms that many optometrists currently use for General Ophthalmic Services and NHS Optical Voucher claims, and is deployed on the eOphthalmic Web Payments platform.

25. The PSD Customer Service team will contact via NHS email those CGS clinicians that require Web Payment accounts set up, or a username reminder/refresh password to be issued.

Enquiries

26. Any queries relating to the transition to the digitised solution for CGS registration and assessment claims should be emailed to PSD at: nss.psdophthalmic@nhs.scot.

27. Any other queries about this Memorandum should be emailed to the Scottish Government at: eyecare@gov.scot.

Dentistry, Optometry and Audiology Division
Directorate for Primary Care
Scottish Government