



Gwasanaethau Offthalmig Cyffredinol Cymru Wales General Ophthalmic Services

Dear Colleagues,

Within a matter of months, a new cohort of Student Optometrists will graduate from university and arrive in your practice to begin their training on the College of Optometrist's Scheme for Registration (SfR).

To assist with preparing for their arrival, we would like to draw your attention to the following **key changes** relating to Student Optometrists and WGOS:

1. Student Optometrist undertaking their SfR **must be** listed on a Local Health Board's Supplementary Ophthalmic list (SOL) prior to commencing their training
2. From 1 June 2024, a SOL-listed Student Optometrist **must sign** any claim form i.e. GOS 1W, GOS 3W, GOS 5, GOS 6W or WECS 1, relating to any WGOS episode that they undertake under supervision. Where the supervising Optometrist / OMP chooses to countersign / initial the claim form, this must be outside the main body of the form e.g. in the left margin.

We would also like to remind you that:

- Spectacle prescriptions **must only** be signed by a fully qualified Optometrist or an Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner (OMP)
- A copy of a spectacle prescription **must be** signed by a fully qualified Optometrist, OMP or Dispensing Optician
- A SOL-listed Student Optometrist may sign a referral letter, but it **must** also include the name and signature of the Optometrist / OMP supervising and taking clinical responsibility of the patient episode.

For further information and resources to assist your Student Optometrist, please refer to '[A Student Optometrist's Guide to WGOS](#)'.

If you do have any questions, please do get in touch with us as NWSSP-PCS using the following email address:

nwssp-primarycareservices@wales.nhs.uk

Best wishes

Helen and Sian

Helen Corson and Siân Roberts

Cynghorwyr Optomerig Optometric Advisors

Gwasanaethau Gofal Sylfaenol Primary Care Services

Partneriaeth Cydwasaethau GIG Cymru NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

Mae Partneriaeth Cydwasaethau GIG Cymru yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg.

NHS Wales Shared Services welcomes correspondence in Welsh.

