

OPTOMETRY CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS 2025/26: Confirmation of contractual changes and fee uplifts



Optometry Wales
Optometreg Cymru

Following the successful conclusion of the tripartite negotiations (between Welsh Government, Optometry Wales and NHS Wales) on the Wales National Optometry Contract Negotiations 2025-26 as announced in the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care's [Written Statement: Optometry Contract Negotiations 2025 \(15 October 2025\)](#) | [GOV.WALES](#)

Wales continues to be well-funded with over £3m of additional investment in targeted areas to allow sustainability for practices as well as growth and expansion of services.

There are a number of additional activities which fall within the remit of our contractual obligations as we move forward working more closely than ever with NHS Wales and Health Boards and aligning with the rest of NHS Wales.

To support the profession in understanding the contractual changes a webinar has been arranged for Wednesday 22 October 2025 6:30 – 8pm. To Register please use the following link: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

As ever, Optometry Wales is committed to working with the ROC's to support our journey as a profession throughout these changes and beyond.

The following have been agreed:

Changes to Quality for Optometry Requirements:

- New Requirements:
 - All practice staff to complete the Primary Care Inclusion and Belonging survey. This survey is open **NOW** and will close on the **31 October 2025**
Link to survey: [Primary Care Staff Inclusion and Belonging Survey 2025](#)
Note: This survey has been live since 1st September 2025 but is now mandatory. Whilst the notice for this is relatively short, it is necessary to secure additional funding .
 - All practices to complete the Welsh Information Governance Toolkit by **31 March 2026**.
The Welsh Information Governance Toolkit is a self-assessment tool enabling organisations to measure their level of compliance against national Information Governance standards and legislation.
In the first year of completion practices are not expected to be fully compliant with all areas of the toolkit but must complete and submit the toolkit by 31 March 2026. Practices should however work

towards full compliance with the toolkit by the end of the 2026/27 submission period (31 March 2027)

Details of the toolkit and resources can be found: [Welsh Information Governance Toolkit - Digital Health and Care Wales](#)

An introduction to the IG toolkit will be included in the webinar held on 22 October.

- Practices must reflect on any areas of non-compliance within the Quality for Optometry toolkit and must submit an action plan with timescales for improvement and implementation to the Health Board by **31 March 2026**
- Additional declarations to be included in the Quality for Optometry toolkit which cover:
 - All eligible patients are offered fully funded NHS spectacles
 - All equipment meets the minimum requirements as detailed in appropriate WGOS clinical manuals or other statutory requirements
 - Confirmation that staff have undertaken the primary care staff inclusion and belonging survey
 - Date of completion of Welsh Information Governance Toolkit
 - A declaration in respect of Duty of Quality and improvement in the quality of health services being delivered
 - Confirmation that following completion of the toolkit that the practice will reflect on any areas of non-compliance and create an action plan to be shared with the Health Board by 31 March 2026
- Service Insights:
 - As of 2025/26 practices will complete 2 service insights per year PLUS one PDSA clinical audit.
 - The first PDSA Clinical audit will replace the third service insight for 2025/26 and will focus on myopia. The Myopia Management clinical audit is expected to be released to practices on **17 October 2025**, details will be added to [Quality for Optometry - Optometry Wales](#)

It is expected that the data collection period will be **1-21 November 2025** and that practices will then submit their collated activity and their reflections on the barriers for provision of service via MS form between **24 November – 8 December 2025**

Additional information will be included in the webinar on 22 October.

Future Changes (after 2025/26):

- Practice Development Plans:
Practice Development Plans will be introduced from **1 April 2026** as an annual contractual requirement, further details will be shared in advance of their introduction, but these plans will look at future aspirations of practices to expand into provision of different levels of WGOS and domiciliary provision.

- **Domiciliary:**
A short-term working group will be established to refine solutions around domiciliary providers working across multiple areas and health boards in the context of clusters and collaboratives.
- **Digital:**
An agreement in principle to the longer-term aim of WGOS being linked to the NHS Wales App

Funding:

The negotiations included an agreement in respect of the increase in WGOS fees and optical vouchers as of 01 April 2025, alongside fees relating to collaborative working and Quality for Optometry. Fee increases have been focused on the core areas of delivery to support all practices to provide sustainability to all practices to allow them to further invest in the delivery of WGOS.

Full confirmation of the fees will be issued to contractors by Welsh Government in November once the regulations come into force and backdated to 1 April, the below details the increase in fees in comparison to 2024/25:

Item	Fee increase in comparison to 2024/25
Clinical services and optical vouchers – fees increased as of 01 April 2025:	
WGOS 1	+ 5%
WGOS 2 (Band 1,2 &3)	+ 1.75%
WGOS 3 (LVSF Follow up Assessment)	+ 10%
WGOS 3 CVI – Ocular examination claim only	+ 1.75%
WGOS 3 Ocular examination and low vision certification	+ 0.85%
WGOS 4 with IP Supplement (Used to prevent an onward referral to HES)	New for this year – supplement to WGOS 4 fee
Domiciliary visiting fee (1 st and 2 nd)	+ 5%
Domiciliary visiting fee (3 rd and subsequent)	+ 5%
Optical Vouchers numbers 1,2,6 & 7	+ 4%
Optical Voucher supplements for Complex, Tint, Prism, Small frame, child specialist surfacing	+ 4%
Complex Prism Supplement	New for this year - Case by case on application to NWSSP
All Voucher numbers -voucher for repair or replacement lenses – Side of Frame	+ 4%
All Voucher numbers -voucher for repair or replacement lenses – Whole Frame	+ 4%
Collaborative Working:	
Cluster Lead	+ 4%
Attendance at Collaboratives (per meeting)	+ 4%

Practice Grants	
Medical Retina Higher Certificate	New for this year Maximum £5000 (40 sessions)
Quality for Optometry	
Foundation service	+ 4%

All Fees not stated in the table above will be maintained at the current 2024/25 fee levels

JUDY MISRA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

15 October 2025