

Publication Summary



General Ophthalmic Services Statistics

Updates of existing pages to / as at 31 March 2011

Publication date – 26 July 2011



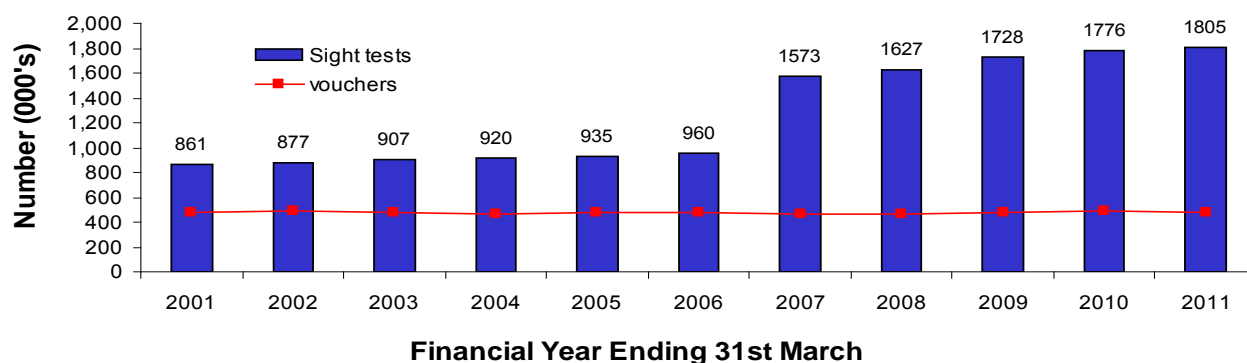
About this Release

This release provides information on General Ophthalmic Services Eye Examinations and Voucher Claims for financial year ending 31 March 2011. Information is also provided on referrals and reasons for primary and supplementary NHS eye examinations and the number of eye examinations by patient type for financial years ending 31 March 2007-2011.

Key Points

- The total number of NHS eye examinations increased by 1.6% from 1.78 million for year ending 31 March 2010 to 1.80 million for year ending 31 March 2011.
- The number of patients receiving a primary eye examination decreased by 9.1% from 1,655,075 for year ending 31 March 2010 to 1,504,230 for year ending 31 March 2011. Of the 1,504,230 primary eye examinations, 1,497,503 were for ordinary residents, a decrease of 9.1% and 6,727 were for exempt visitors, a decrease of 14.7%.
- The number of patients receiving a supplementary eye examination increased by 149.6% from 120,381 for year ending 31 March 2010 to 300,451 for year ending March 2011. Of the 300,451 supplementary eye examinations, 299,276 were for ordinary residents, an increase of 149.7% and 1,175 were for exempt visitors, an increase of 122.1%.

Number (000's) of NHS sight tests / eye examinations received and vouchers claimed in Scotland, years ending 31st March 2001 to 2011



Background

On 1st April 2006, a new NHS eye examination was introduced and free NHS eye examinations were extended to all in Scotland. The traditional NHS sight test was replaced by a comprehensive eye examination appropriate to the patient's needs. An initial eye examination is carried out (primary eye examination) and where necessary a second eye examination (supplementary eye examination) is carried out. An updated GOS(S)1 form was introduced on the 1st April 2006 to coincide with the new NHS eye examination. However, some old GOS(S)1 forms continued to be submitted and are included in the total eye examinations in the Scotland trend table from financial years 2006/07 to 2008/09. There was a further update to the GOS(S)1 form in 2009 to reflect the new patient type categories. These categories are shown within this release. On 1 April 2010 the NHS (General Ophthalmic Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 were amended to provide that primary eye examinations should only be undertaken in line with set frequencies for different categories of patients, i.e. 1 or 2 years. Other eye examinations required at shorter intervals than these frequencies are undertaken as supplementary eye examinations.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

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