

Publication Summary



General Ophthalmic Services Statistics

Updates of existing pages - as at 31st March 2012

Publication date – 31st July 2012



About this Release

This release provides information on General Ophthalmic Services Eye Examinations and Voucher Claims for year ending 31st March 2012 and for previous years. Information is also provided on referrals and reasons for primary and supplementary NHS eye examinations and the number of eye examinations by patient type from years ending 31st March 2007 to 31st March 2012.

Key Points

- The total number of NHS eye examinations increased by 6.0% from 1.8 million in year ending March 2011 to 1.9 million for year ending March 2012.
- The number of patients receiving a primary eye examination increased by 6.5% from 1,504,230 in year ending March 2011 to 1,601,729 in year ending March 2012. Of the 1,601,729 primary eye examinations carried out 1,594,815 were for ordinary residents, an increase of 6.5%; and 6,914 were for exempt visitors, an increase of 2.8%.
- The number of patients receiving a supplementary eye examination increased by 3.8% from 300,451 in year ending March 2011 to 311,836 in year ending March 2012. Of the 311,836 supplementary eye examinations carried out 310,521 were for ordinary residents, an increase of 3.8%; and 1,315 were for exempt visitors, an increase of 11.9%.

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 with 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). An updated patient form (called a GOS(S)1) for eye care professionals was introduced on 1st April 2006 in line with the new NHS eye examination. However, some old forms continued to be submitted and are included in the total eye examinations in the Scotland trend table from years 2006/07 to 2008/09. There was a further update to the form in 2009 to reflect new patient categories. These categories are shown in this release.

On 1st 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 patient, i.e. every 1 or 2 years. Other eye examinations required at shorter intervals 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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