

# Publication Summary



## General Ophthalmic Services Statistics

Updates of existing pages - as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

Publication date – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013

### About this Release

This release provides information on General Ophthalmic Services Eye Examinations and Voucher Claims for year ending 31 March 2013 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 31 March 2007 to 31 March 2013.

### Key Points

- The total number of NHS eye examinations carried out increased by 0.7% from 1,913,565 in year ending March 2012 to 1,926,616 in year ending March 2013.
- There was a steady increase in the number of people who received an eye examination between years ending March 2007 and March 2013.
- The number of people receiving a primary eye examination decreased by 0.4% from 1,601,729 in year ending March 2012 to 1,594,996 in year ending March 2013. Of the 1,594,996 primary eye examinations carried out 1,587,910 were for ordinary residents, a decrease of 0.4%; and 7,086 were for exempt visitors, an increase of 2.5%.
- The number of patients receiving a supplementary eye examination increased by 6.3% from 311,836 in year ending March 2012 to 331,620 in year ending March 2013. Of these supplementary eye examinations carried out 330,183 were for ordinary residents, an increase of 6.3%; and 1,437 were for exempt visitors, an increase of 9.3%.
- Some patients are entitled to receive help with the cost of optical appliances. The trend in the number of claims made in Scotland shows that the number of optical vouchers claimed for pairs of spectacles, including complex appliances decreased by 4.2% from 489,309 in year ending March 2012 to 468,681 in year ending March 2013.

### Background

On 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Note: Due to a minor error in the analysis of data for Table 5 (reason for supplementary referral) for 2010/11 and 2011/12, as presented in the July 2011 and July 2012 General Ophthalmic Services Statistics publications, the 2010-12 data have been revised for this (August 2013) publication. All charts and tables are noted "R" and footnoted where appropriate. This error affects all NHS boards' figures and the national figure for total referral reasons for financial years 2010/11 and 2011/12 (16.3% and 14.5% lower respectively in the July 2012 publication than this updated release); (see relevant tables and charts within Table 5). This analysis has also been updated with 2011 mid-year population estimates, which were unavailable at the time of the last (July 2012) publication. 2011 and 2012 population estimates are from the newly available 2011-based census from National Records Scotland, whereas previous years' estimates are based on the 2001-based census; thus, the most recently available population figures have been used. These changes do not appreciably affect the results, nor would they change the overall interpretation of results by users of the report.

## Contacts

**Craig Collins**  
Senior Information Analyst  
[craig.collins@nhs.net](mailto:craig.collins@nhs.net)  
0141 282 2124

**Stephen Goold**  
Principal Information Analyst  
[stephen.goold@nhs.net](mailto:stephen.goold@nhs.net)  
0131 275 6316

## Further Information

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

### About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

### Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#).