

Publication Summary



General Ophthalmic Services Statistics

Updates of existing pages as at 31 March 2014

Publication date – 21 April 2015



About this Release

This publication provides statistics on NHS General Ophthalmic Services eye examinations and voucher claims for financial years from 2006/07 to 2013/14.

As a result of a number of data quality issues, data from April 2006 to March 2013 have been revised from previous publications. The revisions have had a minor effect for the whole of Scotland, with eye examination numbers varying by less than 2.5%. However, there were larger differences for some of the other data reported. **It is therefore strongly advised that any previously held data for April 2006-March 2013 are discarded and the revised data reported here are used.**

Key Points

Eye Examinations

- The total number of eye examinations has increased from 2006/07 to the highest ever recorded figure in 2013/14 (2.04 million).
- Of these 1.66 million were primary eye examinations and 374,000 were supplementary eye examinations.
- Increasing trends were seen across Scotland, for primary and supplementary eye examinations and domiciliary visits.
- Most patients were not referred for any further investigation following their eye examination (1.64 million), illustrating that 80% of all patients in 2013/14 were dealt with in a primary care setting.
- Between 2006/07 and 2013/14, the recorded numbers of patient clinical conditions (diabetes, glaucoma /hypertension or is over 40 and has a relative who suffers from glaucoma) have continued to increase.

Vouchers

- The number of claimants of optical vouchers remained fairly stable, increasing by 1% from 487,000 in year ending March 2013 to 494,000 in year ending March 2014.

Background

There have been significant legislative changes that have affected NHS General Ophthalmic Services during the period that this publication covers.

The NHS (General Ophthalmic Services) (Scotland) Regulations were established in 2006. The traditional NHS "sight test" was replaced by a comprehensive eye examination appropriate to the needs of the patient. An initial eye examination was carried out focused on eye health (primary eye examination) and where necessary was followed up by a second eye examination (supplementary eye examination). Everyone in Scotland became eligible for a fully funded NHS primary eye examination. The recommendation was that a primary eye examination would be carried out **at least** every two years for all patients. However, there were certain groups who were eligible for an annual primary eye examination (further details on the eligible groups are given in the publication).

The NHS (General Ophthalmic Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 were amended on 1st April 2010. Primary eye examinations could now **only** be undertaken in line with the set frequencies for different categories of patients outlined above, that is, at intervals of one or two years respectively, and not any shorter than these intervals. Other eye examinations required at shorter intervals than these frequencies could be undertaken as supplementary eye examinations. As a result of this change in the legislation, there was also a change in the use of services.

The report structure and content has been updated in response to user feedback to improve user engagement

Contact

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Further Information

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

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