

Certification of Vision Impairment

1.0 Certificate of Vision Impairment Wales (CVIW)

Certification is the pre-requisite to registration with a vision impairment. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) 2014 Act requires local authorities to establish and maintain a register of people who are ordinarily resident in the local authority's area and who are sight-impaired, hearing-impaired or who suffer from sight and hearing impairments which, in combination, have a significant effect on their day to day lives.

Registration ensures access to services and support aimed at maintaining a person's independence, inclusive of that offered by Habilitation officers and Rehabilitation Officers for the Visually Impaired.

The CVIW also has additional functions. It allows the collection of epidemiological information about the incidence and causes of certifiable sight loss in the UK. In Wales, the CVIW is used to indicate prevalence of certifiable vision impairment and is recognised by the Department of Work and Pensions as medical evidence of sight loss.

2.0 Patient Certification Eligibility Criteria

Severely sight impaired

- VA below 3/60 Snellen
- VA better than 3/60 but below 6/60 Snellen with a contracted visual field
- VA 6/60 Snellen or above with a contracted field of vision especially if the contraction is in the lower part of the field

Sight Impaired

- VA 3/60 to 6/60 Snellen with full field
- VA up to 6/24 Snellen with moderate contraction of the field, opacities in media or aphakia
- VA of 6/18 Snellen or even better if there is a gross defect, for example hemianopia, or if there is a marked contraction of the visual field, for example in retinitis pigmentosa or glaucoma

3.0 Certification in Primary care

Practitioner Eligibility

Optometrists, who hold dual EHEW and LVSW accreditation, are able perform certification of vision impairment for patients whom the leading cause of vision loss is;

Dry Age-Related Macular Degeneration

4.0 Clinical Certification Pathway Standard Operating Procedures

4.1 PART A: IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PATIENTS (ALL EHEW OPTOMETRISTS)

- A Sight Test must have been performed within the last 12 months
- When eligibility for certification/change of eligibility (SI to SSI) is identified, a patient must be advised of the eligibility for certification and be certified by the appropriate clinician in the primary or secondary care setting. The patient must be assured that certification in each setting is equivalent.
- Patients must be provided with relevant accessible information regarding certification in all cases, whether referral for certification is accepted or not.
- On patient consent, a relevant referral to a certifying professional must be made.
- A referral for a Low Vision Service Wales assessment must also be offered to the patient, with accessible information regarding the service. (N.B a LVSW assessment is not mandatory to access primary care certification).

Supporting material

CVIW form ([WGOS 3 Low Vision - NHS Wales](#))

CVIW explanatory notes ([WGOS 3 Low Vision - NHS Wales](#))

CVIW WHC 2022 ([WGOS 3 Low Vision - NHS Wales](#))

CVI patient information ([WGOS 3 Low Vision - NHS Wales](#))

4.2 PART B: PERFORMING CERTIFICATION IN PRIMARY CARE (Dual accredited EHEW and LVSW optometrists)

- Certification appointment must consist of;
 - A conversation around the benefits of certification
 - An explanation of the process of certification and registration and the sharing of information
 - The certifying EHEW/LVSW practitioner must be assured that the patient fully understands what will happen on completion of the CVI, and where their information will be shared
 - Verbal consent of whether the patient would like to progress with the process
 - If the patient wishes to progress, then an ocular health examination should be performed by the dual EHEW/LVSW accredited optometrist to confirm the main cause of vision impairment inclusive of;
 - Monocular and Binocular Visual Acuity measurement

- A slit lamp examination of the anterior segment and lens
 - An assessment of the anterior chamber depth (central and peripheral, the latter as a surrogate for angle width)
 - Tonometry
 - A bilateral dilated fundus examination using a slit lamp and a Volk lens where possible (unless an excellent view is seen without dilation, in which case this must be annotated on the record card)
 - Where eligibility is based upon visual fields, recent related visual field examination from which a quantifiable field printout is available should be provided, or performed if not available
 - Other procedures at the discretion of the examining optometrist or ophthalmic medical practitioner (OMP)
- The CVIW (2022) form ([WGOS 3 Low Vision - NHS Wales](#)) must be completed in line with guidance notes ([WGOS 3 Low Vision - NHS Wales](#))
 - On completion of the CVI form, it should be sent to
 - NSWWP
 - The patient
 - The Local Authority ([WGOS 3 Low Vision - NHS Wales](#))
 - The patient's general practitioner
 - A copy kept in the patient records
 - Where the CVI ocular examination is performed but the patient decides not to continue with certification, then the CVI ocular examination claim form ([WGOS 3 Low Vision - NHS Wales](#)) should be completed and sent to NWSSP.

5.0 Claiming Payment

Payment will be made in line with LVSW payment cut off dates

Patient is certified by optometrist

- a) CVI form ([WGOS 3 Low Vision - NHS Wales](#)) copied x 5 and sent to
 - 1. DST-CVI
NHS Shared Services Partnership
Ground Floor
Cwmbran House
Mamhilad Park Estate
PONTYPOOL
NP4 0XS

Please note this is a different address to the GOS submission

Scanned copies sent from a secure email address may be sent to; Nwssp-primarycareservices@wales.nhs.uk)

2. Patients GP
3. Provides a copy for the patient
4. Local authority means the local authority responsible for the area the person is resident ([WGOS 3 Low Vision - NHS Wales](#))
5. A copy should be kept in the patient records

Ocular examination certification assessment does not result in patient certification by optometrist

- a) Optometrist completes certification ocular examination claim form ([WGOS 3 Low Vision - NHS Wales](#)) and sends to;

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Cwmbran House
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