



Welcome

WGOS newsletter is the go-to place to support you through Welsh Government's optometry contract reform programme. Each newsletter will give a bitesize summary of a particular topic with links to relevant resources and support. With tips and advice to support you with the new optometry services... ***we've got you.***

The WGOS reform programme will see the range of NHS-funded eye care services provided by optometrists, OMPs and dispensing opticians in Wales increased, with each member of the practice team collaborating to work at the top of their respective clinical licence.



Newsletter #7 will focus on: The more things change, the more they stay the same

Thank you all for your commitment, patience and enthusiasm in the transition to WGOS. It would not have been possible without your support and willingness to take responsibility for changes at practice-level. Further developments are in the pipeline, not least WGOS 4 which will introduce optometry-based glaucoma and medical retina services in 2024. In the meantime, we would like to remind you of some key things that have not changed since the introduction of WGOS:

1. The need for the GP to know the outcome of WGOS 2 episodes (formerly EHEW appointments) either by a letter, e.g. WECS (2), or copy of a referral, e.g. WECS (3). One communication may be sufficient for connected episodes of care.
2. The flexibility for optometrists and OMPs to make appointments to accommodate their patients' commitments that may result in WGOS 1 examinations conducted slightly earlier than the intervals in the manual. As before, Health Boards will not challenge uncoded claims for WGOS 1 made within one month of these intervals.
3. The clinical guidance and pathways for cataract, OHT/glaucoma (including discharge from hospital), AMD and retinal breaks and detachments (sections 10-14 of the old EHEW manual or equivalent Health Board pathways).

Key Questions



Am I an optometrist, dispensing optician or member of the practice team?



If your answer is **'yes'**, please continue to:

Send GP outcome letters/copies of referrals for WGOS 2.

Be flexible with patients' appointments within one month of the manual interval for their next WGOS 1 examination.

Adhere to the pathways for cataract, OHT/glaucoma, AMD and retinal breaks/detachments.



If your answer is **'no'**

please relax and wait for the next newsletter.

Summary

What?

No change to:

- ↘ GP letters/copies of referrals for WGOS 2.
- ↘ Flexibility for WGOS appointments within one month of manual interval.
- ↘ Cataract, OHT/glaucoma, AMD and retinal breaks/detachments pathways.

When?

Now and ongoing until future service developments, particularly WGOS 4 for OHT/glaucoma and medical retina.

How?

Please click links for copies of [WECS \(2\)](#) & [WECS \(3\)](#) templates and/or [2022 Clinical Guidance \(EHEW manual extract\)](#).

Stay in touch

Optometry Wales (OW) is the professional umbrella organisation for the primary care eye health professions in Wales. They are able to offer support and advice.

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To receive future updates by email, please register your email address at <https://forms.office.com/e/4Kksq7sFpu> or photograph the QR code with your smartphone.

Previous Newsletters can be found at: <https://www.nhs.wales/sa/eye-care-wales/professionals/latest-news-for-professionals/wgos-newsletters/>

