

**2008 No. 660 (W.70)**

**NATIONAL HEALTH  
SERVICE, WALES**

The National Health Service  
(Optical Charges and Payments)  
(Amendment) (Wales) Regulations  
2008

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations amend the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 1997 (“the Optical Regulations”) which provide for payments to be made by means of a voucher system in respect of costs incurred by certain categories of persons in connection with the supply, replacement and repair of optical appliances.

Regulation 2 amends regulation 19 to increase the redemption value of a voucher issued towards the cost of replacement of a single contact lens and to increase the maximum contribution by way of voucher to the cost of a repair of a frame.

Regulation 3 and the Schedule amend the Schedules to the Optical Regulations to increase the value of vouchers issued towards the costs of the supply and replacement of glasses and contact lenses, to increase the additional values for vouchers for prisms, tints, photochromic lenses and special categories of appliances and to increase the value of vouchers issued towards the cost of the repair and replacement of optical appliances. The rate of increase in the value of vouchers in these Regulations is approximately 2.7%.

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The National Health Service  
(Optical Charges and Payments)  
(Amendment) (Wales) Regulations  
2008

*Made* 10 March 2008

*Laid before the National Assembly for Wales*  
11 March 2008

*Coming into force* 1 April 2008

The Welsh Ministers make the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 129 and 203 (9) and (10) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006<sup>(1)</sup>.

**Title, commencement, interpretation and application**

**1.**—(1) The title of these Regulations is the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2008 and they come into force on 1 April 2008.

(2) These Regulations apply in relation to Wales.

(3) In these Regulations “the Optical Regulations” (“y *Rheoliadau Optegol*”) means the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 1997<sup>(2)</sup>.

**Amendment to the Optical Regulations**

**2.** Regulation 19 of the Optical Regulations (redemption value of voucher for replacement or repair) is amended as follows—

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<sup>(1)</sup> 2006 c.42.

<sup>(2)</sup> S.I. 1997/818 as amended.

- (a) in paragraph (1)(b), for “£50.50” substitute “£51.90”; and
- (b) in paragraph (3), for “£13.00” substitute “£13.40”.

**Amendments to the Schedules to the Optical Regulations**

3.—(1) Schedules 1 to 3 of the Optical Regulations are amended in accordance with the following provisions of this regulation.

(2) In Schedule 1 (voucher letter codes and face values-supply and replacement) in column (3) of the table (face value of voucher), for each amount specified in column (1) of the table below substitute the amount specified in relation to it in column (2) of the table below:

<i>(1)</i> <i>Old amount</i>	<i>(2)</i> <i>New amount</i>
£34.60	£35.50
£52.60	£54.00
£76.90	£79.00
£173.70	£178.40
£59.80	£61.40
£76.00	£78.10
£98.50	£101.20
£190.90	£196.10
£177.90	£182.70.
£50.50	£51.90

(3) In Schedule 2 (prisms, tints, photochromic lenses, small and special glasses and complex appliances)—

- (a) in paragraph 1(1)(a), for “£11.30” substitute “£11.60”;
- (b) in paragraph (1)(1)(b), for “£13.50” substitute “£13.90”;
- (c) in paragraph 1(1)(c), for “£3.80” substitute “£3.90”;
- (d) in paragraph 1(1)(d), for “£4.30” substitute “£4.40”;
- (e) in paragraph 1(1)(e), for “£57.00”, “£50.50” and “£27.30” substitute “£58.50”, “£51.90” and “£28.00” respectively;
- (f) in paragraph 1(1)(g), for “£57.00” substitute “£58.50”;
- (g) in paragraph 2(a), for “£13.00” substitute “£13.40”; and
- (h) in paragraph 2(b), for “£33.00” substitute “£33.90”.

(4) For Schedule 3 (voucher values-repair), substitute the Schedule 3 set out in the Schedule to these Regulations.

**Transitional Provision**

4. The amounts substituted by regulations 2 and 3 apply only in relation to a voucher accepted or used pursuant to regulation 12 or regulation 17 of the Optical Regulations on or after 1 April 2008.

*Edwina Hart*

Minister for Health and Social Services, one of the  
Welsh Ministers

10 March 2008

