

**Community Pharmacy Dispensing from a limited list of
Eye Preparations at the request of a Community Optometrist utilising
Pharmacy First**

1. Introduction

In line with other areas of health the need to shift the balance of care for the treatment of eye conditions away from acute services into the community remains a priority. As a result, the Scottish Government has developed an “Integration of Eyecare Services” programme which has the following drivers:

- improve ophthalmology waiting times
- continue to shift the balance of care to the community
- enhance patient safety and reduce patient journey – through timely delivery of treatment

2. Background

Within NHSGGC patients are now encouraged to use their local Community Optometrist as the "First Port of Call" for all eye and vision problems rather than attending their GP. The patient's Optometrist should triage them that day and make any appropriate recommendations regarding an examination, treatment or onward referral.

Previously this scheme had been in place utilising the Minor Ailments Scheme (MAS) however as of 29th July 2020 Pharmacy First replaces MAS. This new scheme is also an NHS service for all patients registered with a GP in Scotland and is available from every community pharmacy in GGC that provides NHS dispensing services. The main difference is that, unlike before, the majority of patients will now be eligible.

As before the optometrist's clinical assessment would be utilised (in a similar way to a GP accepting a consultant's assessment of a patient's clinical condition) prior to a supply being made. Community Optometry and Community Pharmacy have traditionally worked well together and this scheme continues to build on this relationship, demonstrating excellent inter-disciplinary working and most importantly delivering patient centred care.

3. Scheme Aim

For appropriate patients

- to allow for more seamless care for those reviewed by an optometrist
- to reduce treatment delay – removes the need to attend the GP practice.
- promotes appropriate use of Pharmacy First

- excellent inter-disciplinary working

4. Scheme Outline

Optometrists will

- triage the patient and examine appropriately
- ensure that any treatment recommendations made are within the national formulary and comply with licensed indication(s) for the eye product. (Appendix 1)
- confirm patient's eligibility for Pharmacy First (Appendix 2)
- complete the request form (Appendix 3) and ask the patient to take it to any pharmacy of their choice.
- Record the request using Optometry - Pharmacy Supply Request Record (Appendix 4) and /or on the patient's GOS clinical record card
- Inform the patient's GP of the consultation and where applicable, request any item(s) to go onto the patient's repeat prescription.

Community Pharmacists will

- confirm that the patient is eligible for supply under Pharmacy First
- contact the optometrist if necessary re the request
- supply the requested product under Pharmacy First if appropriate
- retain the request form in the pharmacy for 7 years in line with data protection legislation

NB if patient does not qualify for inclusion in this scheme or would benefit from a product not included on the list then they could opt to purchase the recommended product privately. Alternatively a referral/prescription request could be made to their GP.

5. Participation

- this scheme is open to all community optometry practices and community pharmacies across GGC
- participation is voluntary – it is recommended that community optometrists and community pharmacies communicate their participation locally
- only patients eligible for Pharmacy First can be treated using this scheme
- only the eye products listed in Appendix 1 are included (amendments may occur to this national formulary, the current list will be available on the [Community Pharmacy Scotland website](#))

6. Time Line

- The scheme will commence as of 24th August 2020

Appendix 1

Preparation	Form	Quantity
Hypromellose 0.3%	Drops	10ml
(Clinitas) Carbomer 980 0.2%	Gel	10g
Chloramphenicol 0.5%*	Drops	10ml
Chloramphenicol 1%*	Ointment	4g
Sodium Cromoglicate 2%*	Drops	5ml, 10ml
Xailin Night	Ointment	5g
Hilo Night	Ointment	5g

* licence is for adults and children aged 2 years and over.

Eligibility for NHS Pharmacy First Scotland (NHS PFS service)

The following persons are eligible for the service:

- a person registered with the Defence Medical services (even if they are a visitor to Scotland),
- a person registered on a permanent basis with a GP Practice in Scotland,
- a person registered on a temporary basis with a GP Practice in Scotland (unless they are a visitor to Scotland),
- a person who lives in Scotland,
- a person who is a gypsy or traveller in Scotland, or
- a person who is an asylum seeker in Scotland or a dependent of an asylum seeker in Scotland.

The following persons are not eligible:

- a visitor to Scotland

PHARMACY <- > OPTOMETRY REFERRAL/REQUEST FORM



Patient's Name and Address 	Referring Pharmacy Stamp Contact Name Tel No.
Patient's Telephone Number	GP Details
CHI Number /DOB	Pharmacy First Eligible Yes/No
Presenting Signs/Symptoms/Duration 	
Optometry Report 	
Medicines Required Hypromellose 0.3% Eye Drop 10ml <input type="checkbox"/> Clinitas Carbomer Gel 10g <input type="checkbox"/> Hilo Night Eye Ointment 5g <input type="checkbox"/> Xallin Night Eye Ointment 5g <input type="checkbox"/> Chloramphenicol 0.5% Eye Drops (for patients ≥2 years) 10ml <input type="checkbox"/> Chloramphenicol 1% Eye Ointment (for patients ≥2 years) 4g <input type="checkbox"/> Sodium Chromoglicate 2% Eye drops (for patients ≥2 years) 5ml <input type="checkbox"/> 10ml <input type="checkbox"/> DURATION	
Optometrist's Name Ophthalmic List No	Optometry Practice Stamp
Optometrist's Signature	Date

(Recommend retains for seven years)



Optometry - Pharmacy Supply Request Record

Patient's Details

Name:	
Address:	
Date of Birth/ CHI No:	

New Patient **Existing Patient**

Primary Eye Examination **Supplementary Eye Examination**

Medication Request to Pharmacy through PFS scheme (Please specify)

Clinitas Carbomer Gel 10g

Hypromellose 0.3% Eye Drop 10ml

Hilo Night Eye Ointment 5g

Chloramphenicol 0.5% Eye Drops 10ml
(Patient is ≥ 2yrs old)

Chloramphenicol 1% Eye Ointment 4g
(Patient is ≥ 2yrs old)

Sodium Cromoglicate 2% Eye Drops 5ml 10ml
(Patient is ≥ 2yrs old)

Xailin Night Ointment 5g

Form to be retained by Practice for 7 years and made available to Health Board/ NSS on request for audit purposes