



Circular 09/20

March 13th 2020

Dear Contractor,

The Community Ophthalmic Services Scheme (COSS) provides access to certain Optical treatments to eligible persons/children living in the community. Reimbursement for services provided by COSS contractors is administered by the Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service (PCERS) and Community Healthcare Organisations.

From 1st April 2020, PCERS will process all **childrens dispensing claims** irrespective of their geographical area for dispensing codes/items listed on Statutory Instrument 274. Children dispensing claims from Optometrists participating in the Scheme and operating in Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow, Louth and Meath should submit their claims either online or for manual processing by the Optical Team in PCERS with effect from 1st April 2020.

Non standard dispensing items i.e. those not listed on SI 274, which were processed locally should continue to be submitted locally for processing.

Optometrists/Ophthalmologists are encouraged to submit claims using PCERS dedicated online facility for expeditious processing and reimbursement. Claims processed online, up to 15th of each month, will be reimbursed on the last working day of that month. The PCERS continue to accept paper forms for those who opt to manually submit however most Opticians utilise online claiming and reap the benefits of online processing such as:

- Earlier Access to Payments with online claim submission time-period extended to the 15th of the month and paid the last banking day of that month.
- Reliable Service
- Real-time confirmation of acceptance of claims and inputting from Optical practice directly on to National system.
- The online facility eliminates rejections and reduces the need to query payments.
- Access to dedicated online claim support team.
- Access to comprehensive reports detailing claims processed for payment.
- Faster search and retrieval data access

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service