

Summary

1. This Memorandum provides important information for all community optometry practices and practitioners regarding novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

COVID-19

2. All community optometry practices and practitioners in Scotland should be aware of the following information which is available in relation to COVID-19:
 - Health Protection Scotland (HPS) has published online guidance for the initial management of patients who may present to a community optometry practice and have clinical symptoms and a travel history consistent with COVID-19: <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-opticians-and-optometrists/>.

This guidance is subject to revision, so please always check on the above link to ensure that any guidance being referred to is the latest version. Further information, including links to guidance for travellers and the general public, can also be found on the main HPS COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19/>.

- NHS Inform has comprehensive general advice and information on COVID-19: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>.

Also available on the above NHS Inform webpage is a link to a communications toolkit for practices, including a poster, video and social media posts for organisations to print and share.

- NHS Education for Scotland has relevant online training resources for practice staff on TURAS, covering important topics such as hand hygiene: <https://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/education-and-training/by-discipline/optometry.aspx>.
- The General Optical Council has issued a joint statement with other regulatory bodies on how they will continue to regulate in relation to COVID-19: https://www.optical.org/en/news_publications/Publications/joint-statement-and-guidance-on-coronavirus-covid19.cfm.

Enquiries

3. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be emailed to eyecare@gov.scot.

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Scottish Government
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