

General Ophthalmic Services

Dear Practitioners

Re: Emergency Mobile Services Regulations – 2009 No. 16

Emergency mobile services means general ophthalmic services provided at a location, other than the contractor's practice premises, where a contractor has made reasonable arrangements to secure that a patient requiring prompt care will receive such care as soon as appropriately possible. It is only for patients who are normally eligible to receive mobile (domiciliary) services.

Contractors may provide an emergency mobile visit without prior approval or notification to the BSO/HSCB. The contractor shall notify the BSO and the HSCB as soon as is reasonably possible and within one week, of the date and approximate time the services were provided.

For the purposes of this definition, a patient requires prompt care, if in the clinical opinion of the contractor:-

- a) the patient's sight is likely to deteriorate without such care;
- b) the patient is in significant pain by reason of his eye condition; or
- c) the patient may be at serious risk of sustaining a personal injury as a direct result of having an uncorrected refractive error;

"prompt care" in relation to "emergency mobile services" does not necessitate a repair or replacement of an optical appliance unless paragraph (c) of the definition of "emergency mobile services" applies;"

If you have any queries please contact one of the HSCB Optometric Advisers.

**To all Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners,
Optometrists,
Dispensing Opticians,
Suppliers providing spectacles under General Ophthalmic Services.**

6 May 2009