

Dear Colleagues,

NHS England and NHS Improvement can confirm that a date for full resumption of face-to-face GOS has not yet been agreed however discussions on arrangements are currently happening and we hope that a resumption date will be announced soon.

The resumption date will be to provide service 'from' rather than 'on' that date to allow practices to make the arrangements they need to ensure the safety of their patients and staff. It will be encouraged for all practices to review their own plans to resume GOS work once the date is known.

[Draft risk assessment checklist](#)

As a regional team we have produced a **draft** risk assessment checklist (see attached) to support practices. This is not mandatory for you to complete, however is aimed to help you to be ready to see (more) face to face patients and provide GOS once we know when that resumption date will be.

The checklist intends to encourage practices to risk assess all aspects of providing GOS services during the COVID-19 pandemic whilst safely re-opening your doors to patients and their staff. Due to the overall uncertainty and rapidly changing COVID-19 landscape, as well as the individual variation in practice circumstances and equipment, this list cannot be exhaustive. Therefore, this checklist presents a list of points to consider rather than definitive specific actions. Professional bodies have already produced and issued advice and continue to do so and there is expected to be further national guidance and where this covers similar topics, the checklist is designed to complement these sources rather than supersede them.

Some of this checklist becomes more relevant when the resumption date has been announced – please note we are not expecting practices to start booking patients in at this point.

[Save the date Friday 19th June 11:00 – 13:00 – IPC Microsoft Live event](#)

We recognise that contractors may have queries given the pandemic and given that some of these relate to infection prevention and control (IPC), we are looking to run a Microsoft Live event presentation to provide some support and enable practices to raise questions.

The current planned date and time is **Friday 19th June at 11:00 – 13:00** so please put a hold in your diaries and we will provide you with more information and the joining link shortly. We would encourage and welcome you to share any questions you may have around IPC in advance of this date by emailing england.bgs-w-optom@nhs.net so that wherever possible these can be covered by the session/FAQs that will follow. We appreciate that the timing may not work for all contractors, however the presentation will be recorded and the link will be circulated on Monday 22nd June for you to watch.

[Financial support](#)

NHS England and Improvement understand the need for ongoing financial support for practices, including those that are not in a position to reopen at short notice. It has been confirmed that the current average GOS payments support will be in place until at least the end of June and again we will share further information with you once we know more.

We are in regular contact with LOCs/LOCSU who have been helpful in enabling us to understand the issues faced by Contractors at this time. Thank you for your patience at this time and for the work that you have been doing to continue to provide urgent and essential eye care services to patients.

Many thanks,

Kath

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