



## Welcome

**WGOS newsletter** is the go-to place to support you through Welsh Government's optometry contract reform programme. Each newsletter will give a bitesize summary of a particular topic with links to relevant resources and support. With tips and advice to help you prepare for the new optometry services... ***we've got you.***

The WGOS reform programme will see the range of NHS-funded eye care services provided by optometrists, OMPs and dispensing opticians in Wales increased, with each member of the practice team collaborating to work at the top of their respective clinical licence.



## Newsletter #4 will focus on:

### What training you need to do for the new WGOS contract and where you can access the training.

**As part of the new contract, all eye care practitioners performing a WGOS service (optometrists and dispensing opticians) and practice staff assisting in providing the service must complete 4 new mandatory presentations.**

These presentations are standardised for all NHS contractors such as dentists and pharmacists. The majority of optometrists in Wales (95%) have already completed their EHEW accreditation and so, for most, the requirements are to simply complete the four new mandatory presentations.

The presentations are available from HEIW, through their newly-launched online learning platform: **'Y Tŷ Dysgu'**.

The first step is to Sign up to 'Y Tŷ Dysgu'. For instructions, please use the 'Sign up process for YTD 2023 Optom' pdf sent with this newsletter or via the link in the Newsletters section of the WGOS website:

<https://www.nhs.wales/sa/eye-care-wales/professionals/latest-news-for-professionals/wgos-newsletters/>

Once you have signed up, you can access the presentations. For a guide on how to navigate around the 'Y Tŷ Dysgu' website, see the file, 'User guide FINAL', sent with this newsletter or via the link above.

# Key Questions

## As an optometrist do I need to have completed EHEW training as well as doing these new presentations?

- Yes. The new WGOS contract incorporates elements of the old EHEW service, therefore, any optometrist (or CLO offering anterior acute EHEW) must be trained to EHEW standard as a baseline. If you are an optometrist who has not already done EHEW accreditation you must contact HEIW immediately, so that this can be completed in addition to undertaking the additional 4 new presentations.

## Do I have to complete the new training?

- Yes, as part of the new regulations, optometrists who provide a WGOS service must do the training.

## Who else needs to do the training?

- Any employees performing WGOS services, and any staff employed or engaged in assisting in performing WGOS services must complete the training. This is a requirement stated in the new regulations from Welsh Government.

## Why do I have to do more training if I am already EHEW or Low Vision accredited?

- The WGOS contract includes a holistic health element based on the principles of Making Every Contact Count (MECC) as well as incorporating quality improvement principles. There will also be an update for sharps training and an introduction about the new contract too. These presentations are standardised for all NHS contractors and bring optometry up to date with other health care providers such as dentists, GPs and pharmacists who have already done this training. The quality improvement training and making every contact count training are standardised for all healthcare providers in Wales.

## What are the 4 mandatory presentations requirements and how long are they?

Each presentation will take no longer than 60 minutes. There are 10 multiple choice questions (MCQs) to do for each presentation that must be passed (60% pass mark). You need to pass the MCQs for all 4 presentations to be ready for the new contract. You will be able to view a CPD certificate after completing each presentation and associated MCQ. You will be given an overall course badge on completion of all elements on the 'Y Tŷ Dysgu' online website.

The presentations are:

- **WGOS**  
Describes how WGOS is structured and how it can be delivered.
- **Make Every Contact Count (MECC)**  
Describes how conversations in optometry practice can be used to support patients in healthy lifestyle choices.
- **Infection Prevention Control and Sharps Safety**  
Describes how you can ensure safe care for patients by using infection prevention control and safely dealing with sharps in practice.
- **Improving Quality Together - Improvement Foundations training**  
Describes how quality improvement can be used to support evidence-based decision making to ensure provision of safe, quality care for patients.



## Who is responsible for everyone that needs to / has done the presentations?

- Contractors (employers) will need to inform NWSSP that all appropriate staff have completed the modules via a form available from Shared services.

## Do I need to do anything else if I am Low Vision accredited?

- No, you will need to do the 4 presentations as specified but nothing further. Please be aware that communication from the Low Vision service will detail any further requirements if needed.



# Summary

## What?

It will be mandatory for all optometrists and OMPs offering WGOS services to be EHEW accredited. All optometrists, OMPs, dispensing opticians and any staff employed or engaged to assist in the performance of WGOS services also **MUST** complete the mandatory 4 additional presentations; MECC, IQT, IPC & Sharps and WGOS

## When?

WGOS changes are expected to be adhered to from **mid-October** when the new regulations come into force. Employers will have to declare that all their staff have completed the appropriate training by then.

## How?

If you are looking to become EHEW accredited, please contact

[HEIW.Optomtry@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:HEIW.Optomtry@wales.nhs.uk) for further information.

Please allow **6 weeks** to be able to complete all aspects of the training.

# Stay in touch

To receive future updates by email, please register your email address at: <https://forms.office.com/e/4Kksq7sFpu>

**Or;**

Photograph the QR code opposite with your smartphone.



Previous Newsletters can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.wales/sa/eye-care-wales/professionals/latest-news-for-professionals/wgos-newsletters/>

