

NHS England Midlands and East (East)
West Wing, Victoria House
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Thursday 29th September 2016

Dear Colleague,

We have recently received several emails from CCGs and patients regarding NHS funded home visit eye tests. It seems that companies are advertising in a way that implies anyone who is entitled to NHS funded eye test is eligible to have a test at home.

It is the contractor's responsibility to check whether a patient is eligible or not, and home visits should not be offered unless a patient meets the following eligibility criteria:

- The Optician will visit a patient at home – if the patient is unable to leave home unaccompanied because of physical or mental illness or disability
- The Optician will visit a patient at a residential or care home – if the patient normally lives there and they are unable to leave the home unaccompanied because of physical or mental illness or disability
- The Optician will visit a patient at a day centre – if they would have difficulty getting a sight test from an optometrist at their practice because of physical or mental illness or disability, or because they have difficulty communicating their health needs without help

If patient can visit the local shops or the hairdressers (as an example) unaccompanied, then they would be able to go to the local optical practice for an eye test.

Please be aware that only NHS patients that meet these criteria are entitled to receive an NHS funded eye test at home, for all other patients who are entitled to an NHS funded eye test they must be seen by an optician in a practice.

Kind Regards,

Rupal

Mrs Rupal Lovell-Patel

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