

## IMPORTANT UPDATE

Hi Everyone

Following the publication of the NHSE SOP on the 17th of June. LOCSU have reviewed the request from NHSE Regional Teams for contractors to complete declarations.

**IMPORTANTLY IT IS ACCEPTED THAT MANY CONTRACTORS MAY HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED AN ONLINE DECLARATION AND, IN THESE CASES, NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED**

**The following advice supports the process moving forward with immediate effect.**

LOCS should establish the following points to contractors.

- The SOP published on the 17th June is to be considered as an aide memoire / guidance
- Whilst It is recognised that completion of NHSE Regional Team questionnaires is not actually a contractual requirement, it is acknowledged that it will be helpful for regional offices to obtain an understanding of coverage across their regional footprint.
- The local area team need to recognise that in order to resume GOS services, practices will have to complete a risk assessment /checklist of some sort and it is the responsibility of each contractor to ensure that if they are resuming GOS services, they have undertaken an assessment and used their clinical judgement to risk manage their own transition.
- The questionnaire has not been designed as a performance tool.

Therefore, after establishing the above you can now advise members to say the following

***Thank you for your helpful aide-memoire/checklist and support. We can confirm that [PRACTICE NAME and ODS CODE} is open from [DATE] in accordance with NHS England's 17 June letter and SOP.***

***We have carried a risk assessment and are currently focusing on keeping our patients, staff and the public safe in line with College of Optometrist and ABDO guidance.***

This way contractors can circumvent the online questionnaires but still give the opening information that the area teams need.

Best wishes

Richard