

**Guidance**

**Special Glasses Supplements**

**Small Facial Characteristics Supplement**

**The following guidance has been developed to provide you with support in your decision-making process and to ensure that a consistent approach is being taken across LSC ICB**

**Small Glasses Supplements (SGS)**

Claims should only be submitted for SGS if you have supplied the following: -

* Glasses with a boxed centre distance of not more than 55mm

and

* A custom-made frame or a stock frame requiring extensive adaptation to ensure a satisfactory fit.
* Both above conditions must be satisfied for a claim to be valid.
* There is no longer a maximum age for this supplement.

Prior submitting your GOS claim, Please

* Ensure all details are correct as you are confirming
* that the appliance you are supplying meets the about criteria.
* Measurements/dimension of the frame have been taken (please do not assume that the manufacturers meet the above criteria)

Health Service Circular 1999/051 says, extensive adaptation can apply to the frame or lenses; and examples include:

* FRAME MODIFICATIONS *An ‘extensive frame modification’ or a ‘specially adapted’ frame as specified in the Department of Health’s SGS and SFC information is subject to practical interpretation*.
* The Optical Confederation, (TOC) in reference to claims for special facial characteristics and the small frame supplement quotes the: -

‘***Extensive’ adaptation can apply to the frame or lenses; and examples include:***

* Reductions or increases in the length of side - guidance from TOC states: -

***reductions...in the length of sides” as an example a 10mm reduction to a***

 ***metal side fitted with an acetate tip can take as little as 60 seconds to***

 ***complete and, therefore, is not an extensive modification.***

* ***Manipulations to reduce or increase the bridge width which cannot be achieved solely by adjustment of the pads***
* Lenses with a high, positive spherical power worked to a minimum substance (either by the practice or by the wholesale supplier).
* Details of the adaptation necessary should be annotated on the patient’s record.
* The orders for the frame, lenses and/ or modification should be retained as evidence.

Where the Special Facial Characteristics supplement is being applied, there must be a clinical need for the specialist frames.  The Department of Health eligibility for a voucher: -

* ***Where a patient's facial characteristics require a frame to be custom made, or specially adapted, a Special Facial Characteristics supplement (SFC) may, from the 1st April 2016, be claimed by GOS contractors in Primary Care.***

**Please find below the information regarding the eligibility criteria to claim the SFC supplement. Further clarification can be found**[**ABDO SFC article.pdf**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Celhol%5COneDrive%20-%20NHS%20Business%20Services%20Authority%5CDesktop%5CSpecial%20Facial%20Characteristics%5CABDO%20SFC%20article.pdf)

* The small glasses supplement and the special facial characteristics is payable in addition to the appropriate voucher.
* If a frame needs to be repaired or replaced, the supplement is also payable in addition to a repair or replacement voucher.
* You should claim the retail price of the spectacles or repair, or the sum of the voucher and the supplement, whichever is the lower.
* As of 2019 the supplement can be used to provide specially manufactured frames as well as for specially modified frames
* Whilst it is acknowledged that prescribing spectacles for patients with autism is challenging, this would not fall within the remit of claiming a ‘Special Facial Characteristic Supplement’.

For correct claiming please refer to: -

**“Making Accurate Claims in England 2024” section 30, page 44.**