



## Equality and Health Impact Assessment Wales General Ophthalmic Services (WGOS) – Signed Orders Formulary

AWTTC will fill in an Equality and Health Impact Assessment in parallel with each development stage of our projects. This will help us to follow the five ways of working for public bodies, and work to achieving the wellbeing goals, outlined in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Date: 12/03/2026

1.	AWTTC contact details	Tel: 02921 826900 Email: <a href="mailto:awttc@wales.nhs.uk">awttc@wales.nhs.uk</a>
2.	State the objectives of the project.	It is the Welsh Government's policy for NHS Wales to introduce an approved list of eye preparations (medicines and devices) which may be ordered by NHS Wales optometrists providing WGOS on the NHS
3.	Evidence and background information considered. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• population data</li><li>• staff and service users' data, as applicable</li><li>• needs assessment</li><li>• engagement and involvement findings</li><li>• research</li><li>• good practice guidelines</li><li>• participant knowledge</li><li>• list of stakeholders and how stakeholders have engaged in the development stages</li><li>• comments from those involved in the designing and development stages</li></ul> <a href="#">Population pyramids</a> are available from Public Health Wales Observatory.	The formulary has been developed with reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Schedule 16 of the Human Medicines Regulations which contains exceptions to the general rules on selling, supplying and administering prescription only medicines (in parts 1 to 3) and selling or supplying general sales list medicines and medicines not on a general sales list (in part 4), for optometrists;</li><li>- the British National Formulary (BNF);</li><li>- Health Boards' formularies;</li><li>- Common Ailments Service formulary; and</li><li>- the College of Optometrists Clinical Management Guidelines.</li></ul>
4.	Who will this project affect?	The patients and public of NHS Wales and healthcare professionals.

## 5. EQIA - How will the project impact on people?

Questions in this section relate to the impact on people based on the 'protected characteristics' of the Equality Act 2010, and other factors.

How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts	Recommendations for improvement/mitigation	Actions taken (and who by)
<p><b>5.1 Age</b> For most purposes, the main categories are people aged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• under 18 years;</li> <li>• between 18 and 65 years;</li> <li>• over 65 years.</li> </ul>	<p>In some instances, some medication within the formulary may be unsuitable for those who are children or elderly. In these cases, patients will be provided with advice and appropriately signposted to alternative avenues.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>5.2 Persons with a disability as defined in the Equality Act 2010</b> Those with physical impairments, learning disability, sensory loss or impairment, mental health conditions, long-term medical conditions such as diabetes.</p>	<p>Some preparations in the formulary may be unsuitable for those with insufficient dexterity to administer the preparation, e.g. eye drops, or on medication which may result in an interaction. In such circumstances, patients will be provided with advice on how and where to access, or a referral for, appropriate support or alternative treatment.</p>	<p>This is based on current clinical guidelines.</p>	<p>No action needed</p>



How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts	Recommendations for improvement/mitigation	Actions taken (and who by)
<b>5.3 People of different genders:</b> Consider men, women, people undergoing gender reassignment. <b>N.B.</b> Gender-reassignment is anyone who proposes to, starts, is going through or who has completed a process to change his or her gender with or without going through any medical procedures. Sometimes referred to as Trans or Transgender.	No impact	N/A	N/A
<b>5.4 People who are married or who have a civil partner.</b>	No impact	N/A	N/A
<b>5.5 Women who are expecting a baby, who are on a break from work after having a baby, or who are breastfeeding.</b> They are protected for 26 weeks after having a baby whether or not they are on maternity leave.	Some preparations in the formulary may be unsuitable for those who are pregnant or breast feeding. In such cases, patients will be provided with advice on how and where to access, or a referral for, appropriate alternative treatment.	This is based on current clinical guidelines.	No action needed
<b>5.6 People of a different race, nationality, colour, culture or ethnic origin including non-English speakers, gypsies and travellers, migrant workers.</b>  <a href="#">The Runnymede Trust</a>	No impact	N/A	N/A



How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts	Recommendations for improvement/mitigation	Actions taken (and who by)
<p><b>5.7 People with a religion or belief or with no religion or belief.</b> The term 'religion' includes a religious or philosophical belief.</p> <p><a href="#">Implications of religious beliefs on selection of medicines (BMJ)</a></p> <p><a href="#">In practice: guidance on religion, personal values and beliefs</a> (General Pharmaceutical Council)</p>	No impact	N/A	N/A
<p><b>5.8 People who are attracted to other people of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the opposite sex (heterosexual);</li><li>• the same sex (lesbian or gay);</li><li>• both sexes (bisexual).</li></ul> <p><a href="#">Stonewall</a></p>	No impact	N/A	N/A
<p><b>5.9 People who communicate using the Welsh language in terms of correspondence, information leaflets, or service plans and design.</b></p>	No impact	N/A	N/A



<b>How will the project impact on, or affect:</b>	<b>Potential positive and/or negative impacts</b>	<b>Recommendations for improvement/mitigation</b>	<b>Actions taken (and who by)</b>
<b>5.10 People according to their income related group.</b>	<p>Positive impact for people on low-incomes who would otherwise have to purchase eye preparations or seek a second appointment with their GP for NHS-funded preparations when accessing medicines via ophthalmology routes.</p> <p>There is currently no provision for optometrists to supply the medicines or devices required for the treatment of conditions identified in WGOS under the NHS.</p>		
<b>5.11 People according to where they live.</b>	No impact	N/A	N/A



<b>How will the project impact on, or affect:</b>	<b>Potential positive and/or negative impacts</b>	<b>Recommendations for improvement/mitigation</b>	<b>Actions taken (and who by)</b>
<b>5.12 Consider others who face health inequalities, such as:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Looked after and accommodated children and young people</li><li>• Carers: paid/unpaid, family members</li><li>• People who are homeless or those who experience homelessness: people on the street; those staying temporarily with friends/family; those in hostels/B&amp;Bs</li><li>• People involved in the criminal justice system: offenders in prison or on probation, ex-offenders</li><li>• People with addictions and substance misuse problems</li><li>• People who have poor literacy</li><li>• People living in remote, rural and island locations</li></ul>	No impact	N/A	N/A
<b>5.13 Consider any other groups and risk factors relevant to this project.</b>	None identified	N/A	N/A

## 6. HIA - How will the project impact on the health and wellbeing of people in Wales and help address inequalities in health?

Questions in this section relate to the impact on the overall health of individual people, and the impact on the population in Wales.

<b>How will the project impact on, or affect:</b>	<b>Potential positive and/or negative impacts and any particular groups affected</b>	<b>Recommendations for improvement/mitigation</b>	<b>Actions taken (and who by) Refer to where the mitigation is included in the document, as appropriate.</b>
<b>6.1 People being able to access the service offered.</b>	The formulary facilitates people being treated equally across Wales when accessing Wales General Ophthalmic Services. Provision of treatment through signed orders will be based on clinical need and appropriateness.	N/A	N/A
<b>6.2 People being able to improve or maintain healthy lifestyles.</b>	It is expected that the formulary will positively impact on improving/maintaining a healthy lifestyle by offering treatment through self-care (where appropriate) and signed orders for eye conditions.	N/A	N/A
<b>6.3 People in terms of their income and employment status.</b>	No impact	N/A	N/A
<b>6.4 People in terms of their use of the physical environment.</b>	No impact	N/A	N/A
<b>6.5 People in terms of social and community influences on their health.</b>	No impact	N/A	N/A
<b>6.6 People in terms of macro-economic, environmental and sustainability factors.</b>	No impact	N/A	N/A

**7. Please fill in section 7.1 after completing the EqHIA, and fill in the action plan.**

<b>7.1 Please summarize the potential positive and/or negative impacts of the project.</b>	<p>It is expected that the formulary will positively impact the health and well-being of people in Wales by the provision of appropriate advice and treatment for eye conditions identified in Wales General Ophthalmic Services.</p> <p>In some instances, the preparations in the formulary may be unsuitable for those who are children, elderly, pregnant or breastfeeding: In such cases, patients will be provided with advice on how and where to access, or a referral for, appropriate alternative treatment.</p>
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**Action plan for mitigation or improvement and implementation**

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead(s)</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Actions taken</b>
<b>7.2 What are the key actions identified as a result of completing the EqHIA?</b>	Send to the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG) for consideration	AWTTC	June 2025	AWPAG agreed document to be sent out for public consultation.
	Send out for public consultation		July 2025	Completed
	Send to AWPAG for consideration		September 2025	Completed
	Document and EqHIA reviewed by AWMSG for endorsement		November 2025	
<b>7.3 Is a more comprehensive Equalities Impact Assessment or Health Impact Assessment needed?</b>	No			
<b>7.4 What are the next steps?</b>	Proceed to publication	AWTTC	March 2026	
<b>7.5 Review of project and EqHIA</b>	All finished projects are reviewed after a specified time, and the EqHIA will be reviewed at the same time.	AWTTC	Ongoing	

AWTTC's EqHIA template is adapted from the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board EHIA template.