

# RCOphth response to NHS England 'Consultation on proposed amendments to the 2023/25 NHS Payment Scheme'

Submitted to Consultation on proposed amendments to the 2023/25 NHS Payment Scheme  
Submitted on 2024-01-26 14:26:04

## About your organisation

Organisation name: Royal College of Ophthalmologists  
Organisation type: Representative body

## Proposed amendments

To what extent do you support the proposed reduction to two unit prices for cataract HRGs?  
Tend to oppose

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) does not support the proposed 13% reduction to the unit price for the BZ34A and BZ34B cataract tariffs. This is because:

- NHS England has not shared the evidence it cites of 2021/22 cost data that would justify such a reduction. Neither has it shared modelling data of the impact this would have on NHS organisations. We would also wish to understand how the money released from the proposed changes in the BZ34 A and B tariffs would be redistributed within the BZ quantum.
- We have concerns that such a reduction would mean that the costs of operating on patients with complex needs would not be properly reflected.
- We recognise and acknowledge that there are concerns about the link between case complexity, coding and the true cost of delivery. As we highlighted to NHS England in 2023, RCOphth believes that the fundamental problem that needs addressing is the validity and working of the case complexity (CC) scores. A review of the effectiveness of CC scoring in reflecting the costs of care delivery is urgently needed.
- RCOphth welcomes the opportunity to work with the National Casemix Office to both explore the evidence base and develop a better process for defining clinical case complexity and linking it to cost. In addition we would hope to work with NHS England to ensure that any new processes are linked appropriately to the process of price setting.