



## SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Health Department  
Directorate of Primary Care and Community Care

Primary Care Division  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague,

16 May 2007

### **ADDENDUM TO HDL (2007) 23: THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (CHARGES FOR DRUGS AND APPLIANCES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2007**

#### **Addresses**

#### **For action**

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

#### **For information:**

Chief Executive,  
NHS National Services Scotland

Chief Executive,  
State Hospital Board for Scotland

Counter Fraud Services

#### **Summary**

1. This letter advises of a revision to the Memorandum and Annex attached to HDL (2007) 23 dated 28 March 2007, which detailed changes in healthcare charging arrangements introduced through the NHS (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, that came into force on 1 April 2007.

2. The Memorandum and Annex have been amended to show that prescription pre-payment certificates (PPCs) **do** confer exemption from payment of charges in respect of wigs and fabric supports alongside prescriptions and appliances. All other details in the revised documents remain as per the 28 March HDL (2007)23.

#### **Action**

3. **NHS Boards are asked to bring this letter, Memorandum and Annex urgently to the attention of all staff who deal with matters relating to prescription charges and refunds, pre-payment certificates, elastic hosiery, fabric supports and wigs.**

#### **Enquiries to:**

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Yours sincerely

Jonathan Pryce  
Head of Primary Care Division

**Memorandum**

**NHS (CHARGES FOR DRUGS AND APPLIANCES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS  
2007**

**Prescription Charges, Other Health Charges and the Cost of Pre-Payment Certificates;  
Public Information Material; Charges for Prescriptions Written in Wales**

1. Consolidated regulations have been made and laid before the Parliament providing for the following revisions:-

1.1 Prescription Charges: The prescription charge for drugs and appliances supplied through primary care services on or after 1 April 2007 will be £6.85 per item.

1.2 Pre-Payment Certificates (PPCs):

For all applications received on or after 1 April 2007 the charges for PPCs will be as follows:-

- Certificates valid for 4 months - £35.85
- Certificates valid for 12 months - £98.70

1.3 Charges for Items Supplied by Hospitals to Out-Patients: The prescription charge for drugs and most appliances supplied to hospital out-patients will also be increased to £6.85 per item from 1 April 2007. It should be noted however that support tights, which are supplied only through the hospital service, will attract a charge of £13.70 per pair. Charges for fabric supports and wigs are listed at paragraph 4 below.

**PRESCRIPTION CHARGES**

2. Details of the charges and categories of exemptions are attached at Annex A

**PRESCRIPTION PRE PAYMENT CERTIFICATES**

3. The new rates will apply to all applications for PPCs which are received by community pharmacists, dispensing doctors or Practitioner Service Division on or after 1 April 2007.

- The new rates will apply even where the start date of the certificate is backdated to before April 1 to allow for recovery of prescription charges already paid.
- The new rates are not payable in respect of certificates where application is received prior to 1 April 2007, regardless of the starting date of the certificate.
- Pre-Payment certificates should not be issued with starting dates more than 7 days earlier, or one month later than the date on which the application is received.

**NB PPCs cover hospital out-patient charges for drugs, appliances, fabric supports and wigs supplied through the hospital service.**

4. Since 1 April 2002 community pharmacists and dispensing doctors have been able to supply PPCs over the counter. Both also hold PPC refund application forms. Patients are being encouraged to obtain their PPCs from contractors wherever possible. However, PPCs continue to be available from NSS Practitioner Services. Responsibility for issuing reminder letters and duplicate PPCs, as well as processing PPC refund application forms, remains with the NSS Practitioner Services. Arrangements for this scheme are set out in Circular HDL (2002)14.

5. PPCs offer a saving for patients who are not exempt from prescription charges and who need more than 5 prescribed items in a four month period, or more than 14 items in a year. A PPC is valid for hospital out-patient charges for drugs, appliances, fabric supports and wigs.

## **CHARGES IN RESPECT OF HOSPITAL-BASED SERVICES**

### **Charges for Fabric Supports and Wigs**

6. From 1 April 2007 the charges for fabric supports and wigs, which are supplied only through the hospital service, will increase. Full details are attached at Annex A.

#### **In-patients**

7. No charge may be made for any NHS appliance supplied to a hospital in-patient.

#### **Out-patients**

8. Out-patients may be charged only for those appliances specified in the appropriate Regulations i.e. wigs, abdominal and spinal supports, dentures and bridges, elastic hosiery and contact lenses (and for contact lens fluid supplied as part of contact lens therapy), and for prescribed appliances which are listed in the Drug Tariff. The revised NHS charges set out in this Memorandum will be payable, unless the patient is exempt or eligible for remission of charges.

#### **Day Surgery Patients**

9. Drugs administered to day surgery patients in hospitals are free of charge as are those drugs supplied until such time as the patient can attend their General Practitioner. Day surgery patients who get a prescription from a hospital doctor which is dispensed in the hospital pharmacy are liable for prescription charges (unless they are exempt or eligible for remission of charges).

#### **Collection of Charges**

10. NHS Boards are asked to ensure that hospital authorities make arrangements for collecting and bringing to account charges made in hospitals.

## **COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS, DISPENSING DOCTORS AND APPLIANCE SUPPLIERS: SORTING OF PRESCRIPTION FORMS**

11. In general, prescriptions written on or after 1 April 2007 will be assumed to attract the increased charge. Where this is not the case e.g. a referred-back prescription from a previous month contractors are requested in their own interest to sort into bundles prescriptions on which the old charge has been collected and label them accordingly.

### **Prescriptions from Wales**

12. In Wales the prescription charge will be abolished with effect from 1 April 2007. However, prescriptions written in Wales (or in respect of patients who live in Wales) which are presented for dispensing in Scotland must be charged at the rates which apply in Scotland. This means that from 1 April 2007, the prescription charge per item for prescriptions dispensed in Scotland will be £6.85, irrespective of where the prescription is written.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTH CHARGES**

### **Website**

13. Detailed information about help with health costs can be viewed on the web at [www.scotland.gov.uk/healthcosts](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/healthcosts) or [www.show.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk)

### **Leaflets**

14. Leaflet **HCS 1** provides information on help with health costs. It is not available in hard copy but can be viewed on line at the website above.

15. Leaflet **HCS 2** is a quick guide to help with health costs. It can be viewed on the web as above or ordered in hard copy from:

Banner Business Supplies  
Unit 2  
Kingsthorpe Park  
Nettlehill Road  
Houston Industrial Estate  
Livingston  
EH54 5DB

Fax: 01506 448 400

**Contractors are asked to order additional stocks direct from Banner as necessary.**

16. Leaflet **HCS2** also sets out charges for prescriptions, wigs and fabric supports, hospital travel costs, dental treatment, eye examinations and glasses or contact lenses. The leaflet also explains that a Penalty Charge may be imposed where a patient is found to have wrongly claimed full or partial help with health costs.

17. Any questions arising from this Memorandum should be addressed to the relevant NHS Board.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
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March 2007



**ANNEX A**

**PRESCRIPTION CHARGES**

Regulations have been laid before the Scottish Parliament to amend health charges from 1 April 2007. All charges are increased. The charges for 2007-08 are as follows:-

**Item Charge**

a. Each prescription item, i.e. each appliance and each quantity of a drug (including oxygen cylinders),	£6.85
b. Elastic hosiery, including stockings (excluding tights)	£6.85 each £13.70 per pair
c. Tights supplied through the hospital service	£13.70 per pair
d. Surgical brassiere	£23.10
e. Abdominal or spinal support	£34.95
f. Stock modacrylic wig	£6.85
g. Partial human hair wig	£150.75
h. Full bespoke human hair wig	£220.50

Item charges a. and b. above will also apply to these items when supplied via hospital pharmacies to out-patients.

Item charges at c. to h. above apply where the consultation at which the supply of the item is authorised takes place on or after 1 April 2007.

**PRESCRIPTION PRE PAYMENT CERTIFICATES**

The new rates will apply to all applications for PPCs which are received by community pharmacists, dispensing doctors or Practitioner Service Division on or after 1 April 2007.

- Certificates valid for 4 months - £35.85
- Certificates valid for 12 months - £98.70

**NB PPCs cover hospital out-patient charges for drugs, appliances, fabric supports and wigs supplied through the hospital service.**

**ANNEX A**

**NHS HEALTH CHARGES: EXEMPTION AND REMISSION CATEGORIES**

The categories of exemption and remission in respect of charges for prescription items, wigs and fabric supports are set out below.

The patient doesn't have to pay because he/she:

- is under 16 years old;
- is 16, 17 or 18 and in full-time education;
- is 60 years of age or older;
- has a valid maternity or medical exemption certificate (EC92)<sup>1</sup>;
- has a valid War Pension exemption certificate;
- has a valid prescription pre-payment certificate<sup>2</sup>;
- gets, or has a partner who gets Income Support;
- has a partner who gets 'Pension Credit guarantee credit' (PCGC);
- gets, or has a partner who gets Income-Based Job Seeker's Allowance;
- holds or is named on a valid NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate<sup>3</sup>;
- is named on a current NHS Low Income Scheme HC2 'Help with health costs' certificate.

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<sup>1</sup> Medical exemption includes Hypoparathyroidism, forms of Hypoadrenalism for which specific substitution therapy is required, Diabetes insipidus and other forms of hypopituitarism, Diabetes Mellitus except where treatment is by diet alone, Myasthenia Gravis, Myxoedema, Epilepsy requiring continuous anti-convulsive therapy, a permanent Fistula requiring continuous surgical dressing or a continuing physical disability which prevents the patient from leaving a residence without the help of another person. (As detailed in the NHS (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, reg 7 (1) (e))

<sup>2</sup> The prescription pre-payment certificate is valid in respect of wigs and fabric supports as well as prescriptions and appliances.

<sup>3</sup> The certificate entitles the patient, their partner (if they have one) and any children named on the letter accompanying the certificate.