



31 March 2010

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Chief Executive, NHS National
Services Scotland

Directors of Pharmacy

For information:

Chief Executive, NHS 24

Counter Fraud Services

Chief Executive,
State Hospital Board for Scotland

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Dear Colleague

**The NHS (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Scotland)
Amendment Regulations 2010**

Summary

1 This circular advises NHS Boards of:

- revised prescription charges and other health service charges to take effect from 1 April 2010; and
- revised publicity material and forms.

Action

2. NHS Boards are asked to note the content of Annex A and bring to the attention of all relevant staff as quickly as possible. This should include all those involved in dealing with matters relating to prescription charges and refunds, prescription pre-payment certificates, elastic hosiery, fabric supports and wigs.

3. The exemption and remission of charges categories are attached at Annex B.

Yours sincerely

FRANK STRANG
Deputy Director



中華民國統計委員會

中華民國八十二年

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NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CHARGES FOR DRUGS, APPLIANCES, WIGS AND FABRIC SUPPORTS AND THE COST OF PRE-PAYMENT CERTIFICATES FROM 1 APRIL 2010

1. Regulations have been approved by the Scottish Parliament in relation to the next reduction in charges.

From 1 April 2010 NHS charges will be as follows:-

a. Each prescription item, i.e. each appliance and each quantity of a drug (including oxygen cylinders),	£3.00
b. Elastic hosiery, including stockings (excluding tights)	£3.00 (£6.00 per pair)
c. Tights supplied through the hospital service	£3.00 (£6.00 per pair)
d. Surgical brassiere	£3.00
e. Abdominal or spinal support	£3.00
f. Stock modacrylic wig	£3.00
g. Partial human hair wig	£3.00
h. Full bespoke human hair wig	£3.00

The arrangements for exemption from charges remain unchanged (see **Annex B.**)

PRESCRIPTION PRE-PAYMENT CERTIFICATES (PPCs)

2. PPCs offer a saving to people who need more than 3 prescribed items in a period of 4 months, or more than 9 items in a year and who are not exempt from prescription charges. A PPC is also valid for hospital out-patient charges for drugs and appliances including fabric supports and wigs supplied through the hospital service.

From 1 April 2010 the charges will be as follows:-

- Certificates valid for 4 months - £10.00
- Certificates valid for 12 months - £28.00

PPC SALES IN 2010/11

3. As you will be aware the Scottish Government proposes to abolish prescription charges from 1 April 2011. Patient should be urged to consider the planned abolition of charges when purchasing a PPC and make a decision based on their needs.

4. Further information will be issued in due course including a patient information leaflet to help patients consider whether they should buy one or not. There will be no refunds for valid months remaining on PPCs following the planned abolition.

COLLECTION OF CHARGES

5. Pharmacists and dispensing doctors should collect prescription charges at the new rate from 1 April 2010. PSD will continue to deduct payments in the normal way.

PUBLICITY ABOUT PRESCRIPTION CHARGES AND PREPAYMENT CERTIFICATES

6. From 29th March panel posters are being installed in Community Pharmacies across Scotland advising of the next phased reduction in prescription charges. Professional information packs are also being distributed to community pharmacies, dispensing doctor surgeries, GP surgeries, Jobcentre Plus and Citizens Advice Scotland from 24th March. The pack includes a detailed Q&A document, an A4 information poster and a small supply of patient information leaflets.

7. Leaflet HCS2 "a Quick Guide to Help with Health Costs, Charges and Optical Voucher Values" is being updated to include revised figures from 1 April 2010 and will be issued with the professional information packs. Publication HCS1 "Are You Entitled to Help with Health Costs" is available online only at www.scotland.gov.uk/healthcosts

8. Please ensure the new booklets/leaflets are made available for patients and stocks are kept replenished. Existing stocks should be destroyed when new stocks are received. Additional supplies are available from

RR Donnelly Global Document Solutions
8 South Gyle Crescent Lane
Edinburgh, EH12 9EG

Tel: 0131 334 1229

Fax: 0131 3345946

Email: ian.x.fruish@rrd.com

PLEASE NOTE: As you may be aware the Scottish Government contract for print, storage and distribution has recently been awarded to APS Group Print Management Services. The new contract will take effect from 6th April 2010. However, orders should continue to be placed with RRD until notified otherwise.

PRESCRIPTIONS FROM OTHER UK COUNTRIES

9. Previous provisions made for persons presenting prescription forms issued in England, Wales or Northern Ireland to a pharmacy in Scotland to pay the per item prescription charge which is applicable in the equivalent instrument in force in England remains unchanged. This is subject to the arrangements referred to below in relation to entitlement cards. The prescription charge in England has been frozen for 2010/11 and will remain at £7.20 per item.

CROSS BORDER ISSUES - ENTITLEMENT CARDS

10. Patients resident in Scotland and registered with a GP practice in England will only benefit from the reduction in prescription charges if they hold a valid entitlement card and present their prescriptions for dispensing at a pharmacy in Scotland. The exception being if the patient is exempt from charges for other reasons.

11. Application forms are available from Practitioner Services Division – please call 0141 300 1300

NB The patients address on the entitlement card and prescription form **MUST** be the same.

NHS HEALTH CHARGES: EXEMPTION AND REMISSION CATEGORIES

The categories of exemption and remission from prescription charges 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 over;
- has a valid maternity or medical exemption certificate (EC92);
- has a valid War Pension exemption certificate;
- has a valid prescription pre-payment certificate;
- gets, or has a partner who gets Income Support;
- gets, or has a partner who gets Income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- has a partner who gets 'Pension Credit guarantee credit' (PCGC);
- gets, or has a partner who gets income based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- is entitled to¹, or named on a valid NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate;
- is named on a current HC2 charges certificate.

¹ The certificate entitles the patient, their partner (if they have one) and any children named on the letter accompanying the certificate.

