

1990 No. 100

HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES**Charges for Drugs and Appliances (Amendment)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990***Made* 14th March 1990*Coming into operation* 1st April 1990

The Department of Health and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 98 and 106 of, and Schedule 15 to, the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(a) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel(b), hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Charges for Drugs and Appliances (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990, and shall come into operation on 1st April 1990.

(2) In these regulations, “the principal regulations” means the Health and Personal Social Services (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973(c).

Amendment of the principal regulations

2. The principal regulations shall be further amended in accordance with the following paragraphs—

(1) In regulations 3(1)(aa), 3(1)(b), 3(3), 5(1)(b), 7(1)(b), 7(2)(b) and 7(3) for “£2·80” there shall be substituted “£3·05”.

(2) In regulation 6(4) for “£14·50” there shall be substituted “£15·80” and for “£40·00” there shall be substituted “£43·50”.

(3) In regulation 15(1)(d)(ii) (exemption from charges for persons suffering from specified disorders)—

- (a) the words “the following disorders for which specific substitution therapy is essential” shall be deleted;
- (b) after “diabetes mellitus” there shall be inserted “where the treatment is other than by diet alone”;
- (c) for the words from “Addison’s disease” to “hypoadrenalism” there shall be substituted “forms of hypoadrenalism (including Addison’s disease) for which specific substitution therapy is essential”.

(a) S.I. 1972 1265 (N.I. 14)

(b) Formerly Department of Finance; see S.I. 1982,338 (N.I. 6) Art. 3

(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 419; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1980 No. 76, S.R. 1984 No. 66, S.R. 1988 No. 396 and S.R. 1989 No. 99

(4) In Schedule 1 for “£2·80” there shall be substituted “£3·05” and for “£5·60” there shall be substituted “£6·10”.

(5) In Schedule 1A for “£5·60” there shall be substituted “£6·10”.

(6) For Schedule 2 there shall be substituted the following Schedule—

“SCHEDULE 2	Regulation 10
Charges for Wigs and Fabric Supports	
(1)	(2)
<i>Description</i>	<i>Charges</i>
Surgical Brassiere	£13·00
Abdominal or Spinal Support	£17·00
Stock Modacrylic Wig	£26·00
Partial Human Hair Wig	£67·00
Full Bespoke Human Hair Wig	£97·00”.

Application

3. These regulations shall apply—

- (a) insofar as they amend regulation 6(4) of the principal regulations, where the application referred to in paragraph (1) of the said regulation 6 is received on or after 1st April 1990;
- (b) insofar as they amend Schedule 2 to the principal regulations, where the examination or first examination leading to the supply of an appliance takes place after 31st March 1990;
- (c) in any other case, where drugs and appliances are supplied on or after 1st April 1990.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services on 14th March 1990.

(L.S.)

J. Scott

Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance and Personnel hereby approves the foregoing Regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel on 14th March 1990.

(L.S.)

R. Miller

Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These regulations further amend the Health and Personal Social Services (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973 ("the principal regulations") which provide for the making and recovery of charges for drugs and appliances supplied by doctors and chemists providing pharmaceutical services.

The charge for each item on prescription, and the monthly charge in respect of an oxygen concentrator supplied by a chemist, is increased from £2·80 to £3·05. The sums prescribed for the grant of prepayment certificates of exemption from prescription charges are increased from £14·50 to £15·80 for a 4-month certificate and from £40·00 to £43·50 for a 12-month certificate.

The charge for elastic hosiery is increased from £2·80 to £3·05 for each item (from £5·60 to £6·10 per pair) and for tights from £5·60 to £6·10.

The charge for a partial human hair wig is increased from £62·00 to £67·00, and for a stock modacrylic wig from £24·00 to £26·00. The charge for a surgical brassiere is increased from £12·00 to £13·00 and for an abdominal or spinal support from £16·00 to £17·00.

Regulation 2(3) amends the list (in regulation 15(1)(d)(ii) of the principal regulations) of medical conditions which entitle sufferers to exemption from prescription charges. This regulation required that patients with the conditions listed should be receiving specific substitution therapy as a condition of entitlement to exemption. The amendments in sub-paragraphs (a) and (c) of regulation 2(3) now limit that requirement to persons suffering from forms of hypoadrenalism (including Addison's disease). Persons suffering from the remaining medical conditions listed can qualify for exemption without receiving specific substitution therapy. Sub-paragraph (b) of regulation 2(3) amends the list to clarify that patients suffering from diabetes mellitus, except those who are treated by diet alone, are exempt from prescription charges.