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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2022 No. 162**

**The Health and Personal Social Services  
(General Medical Services Contracts)  
(Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022**

**Amendment of regulation 2 of the principal Regulations**

**2. In regulation 2(1) (interpretation)—**

(a) at the appropriate places in alphabetical order insert the following definitions—

““chiropracist or podiatrist independent prescriber” means a person—

- (a) who is either engaged or employed by the contractor or is a party to the contract,
- (b) who is registered in Part 2 of the register maintained under Article 5 of the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001(1), and
- (c) against whose name in that register is recorded an annotation signifying that he is qualified to order drugs, medicines and appliances as a chiropracist or podiatrist independent prescriber;”;

““independent prescriber” means—

- (a) a chiropracist or podiatrist independent prescriber,
- (b) an independent nurse prescriber,
- (c) an optometrist independent prescriber,
- (d) a paramedic independent prescriber,
- (e) a pharmacist independent prescriber,
- (f) a physiotherapist independent prescriber, and
- (g) a therapeutic radiographer independent prescriber;”;

““optometrist independent prescriber” means a person—

- (a) who is either engaged or employed by the contractor or is a party to the contract,
- (b) who is registered in the register of optometrists maintained under Section 7(a) of the Opticians Act 1989(2), and
- (c) against whose name in that register is recorded an annotation signifying that he is qualified to order drugs, medicines and appliances as an optometrist independent prescriber;”;

““paramedic independent prescriber” means a person—

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(1) Words were substituted by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (Consequential Provision-Social Workers) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/1479 Sch.1(1) para.43)

(2) See 1989 c.44. Section 7 was amended by S.I. 2005/848

- (a) who is either engaged or employed by the contractor or is a party to the contract,
- (b) who is registered in Part 8 of the register maintained under Article 5 of the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001, and
- (c) against whose name in that register is recorded an annotation signifying that he is qualified to order drugs, medicines and appliances as a paramedic independent prescriber;”;

““physiotherapist independent prescriber” means a person—

- (a) who is either engaged or employed by the contractor or is a party to the contract,
- (b) registered in Part 9 of the register maintained under Article 5 of the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001, and
- (c) against whose name in that register is recorded an annotation signifying that he is qualified to order drugs, medicines and appliances as a physiotherapist independent prescriber;”;

““therapeutic radiographer independent prescriber” means a radiographer—

- (a) who is either engaged or employed by the contractor or is a party to the contract,
- (b) who is registered in Part 11 of the register maintained under Article 5 of the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001, and
- (c) against whose name in that register is recorded—
  - (i) an entitlement to use the title “therapeutic radiographer”, and
  - (ii) an annotation signifying that he is qualified to order drugs, medicines and appliances as a therapeutic radiographer independent prescriber;”;

(b) in the definition of “prescriber”—

- (i) omit sub paragraph (aa); and
- (ii) in sub paragraph (b) for “an independent nurse prescriber” substitute “an independent prescriber”;

(c) in the definition of “relevant register”, after paragraph (b) insert the following—

- “(c) in relation to an optometrist, the register maintained by the General Optical Council in pursuance of Section 7(a) of the Opticians Act 1989; and
- (d) the part of the register maintained under Article 5 of the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001 relating to—
  - (i) chiropodists and podiatrists;
  - (ii) dietitians;
  - (iii) paramedics;
  - (iv) physiotherapists; and
  - (v) radiographers;”;

(d) in the definition of “supplementary prescriber”—

- (i) in sub paragraph (b)(iii) after “1976,” omit “or”;
- (ii) in sub paragraph (b)(iv)(dd) for “optometrists, and” substitute “dietitians;”;
- (iii) after sub paragraph (b)(iv)(dd) insert the following sub paragraph—
  - “(ee) paramedics; or”;

(iv) after sub paragraph (b)(iv), insert the following sub paragraph—

“(v) the register maintained by the General Optical Council in pursuance of Section 7(a) of the Opticians Act 1989;”.