

1968. No. 243

[C]

HEALTH SERVICES**Charges for Drugs and Appliances**

REGULATIONS, DATED 7TH NOVEMBER 1968, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE UNDER THE HEALTH SERVICES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1948.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 12, 76 and 80 of the Health Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1948(a), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, and with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, hereby makes the following regulations:—

Citation and Commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Health Services (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968 and shall come into operation on 18th November 1968.

Amendment of Regulations

2. The Health Services (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968(b) shall be amended as follows:—

(a) At the end of regulation 2 there shall be added the following regulation:—

“Prepayment Certificates

2A.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this regulation the Board on payment of the prescribed sum shall as soon as reasonably practicable grant a certificate (in these regulations referred to as a “prepayment certificate”) to any person who duly completes and submits an application therefor on a form provided for the purpose.

(2) A prepayment certificate shall be valid for a period of either six or twelve months and an application for such a certificate shall indicate the period for which it is required to be valid and shall be accompanied by the prescribed sum.

(3) A prepayment certificate shall confer on the person to whom it has been granted exemption from charges otherwise exigible under these regulations in respect of the drugs and appliances supplied to him during such period as is specified in the certificate as being its period of validity.

(4) For the purpose of this regulation the prescribed sum shall be £1 10s. 0d. for a prepayment certificate valid for six months and £2 15s. 0d. for a prepayment certificate valid for twelve months.

(5) The payment of a prescribed sum under this regulation shall not be deemed to be the payment of a charge under these regulations.

(6) No prepayment certificate shall be issued so as to be valid before 18th November 1968.

(a) 1948. c. 3 as amended by 1950. c. 9; 1952. c. 11; 1958. c. 29 and 1967. c. 9 (N.I.).

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1968, No. 138.

(7) No prepayment certificate shall be issued unless the application therefor is received less than one month before the date on which its period of validity is to begin."

- (b) Regulation 4 shall be renumbered regulation 4(1) and immediately thereafter there shall be added the following paragraph:—

"(2) After 17th November 1968 a medical or dental practitioner shall order drugs or appliances under the General Medical Services Regulations or the General Dental Services Regulations, as the case may be, only on a form which has been provided for the purpose by the Board and contains on its reverse side a form of declaration of entitlement to exemption by or on behalf of the holder of a prepayment certificate; and after 15th December 1968 a chemist shall not supply pharmaceutical services except to a person who presents such a form."

- (c) In regulation 7—

(i) in paragraph (1)(e) after the words "accepted war disablement" there shall be inserted the words "or, as the case may be, an accepted service disablement";

(ii) in paragraph (1)(f)(ii)—

(a) for the expression "7 to 13" there shall be substituted the expression "7 to 11, 13"; and

(b) for the words from "(B) his requirements" to "special circumstances allow;" there shall be substituted the following:—

"(B) his requirements shall be deemed to include also—

(I) charges under these regulations; and

(II) such amounts in respect of mortgage payments as the Ministry may allow; and

(III) such amounts in respect of hire purchase transactions as the Ministry may allow; and

(IV) such further amounts as the Ministry may in special circumstances allow;

and in considering what, if any, amount to include under either of the last two mentioned heads regard shall be had to the provisions made by the said paragraph 11 for additional requirements and regard may be had to any resources which would otherwise fall to be disregarded under paragraphs 23 to 26";

(iii) at the end of paragraph (1)(f) there shall be added the following:—

"or

(g) a person who has paid the prescribed sum and to whom the Board has granted a prepayment certificate."

- (d) In regulation 8—

(i) for regulation 8(1) there shall be substituted the following:—

"8.—(1) Subject to these regulations, a person (whether or not entitled to exemption) shall be entitled to repayment of any charges paid by or in respect of him who was at the time the relevant charge was made—";

(ii) at the end of regulations 8(1)(a), (b), (c) and (d) there shall be inserted in each case the word "or";

(iii) at the end of paragraph (1) there shall be added the following:—

"(e) a person entitled to exemption under regulation 7(1)(g)."

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland this 7th day of November 1968.

(L.S.)

D. W. Lowry,
Assistant Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance hereby approves the foregoing Regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 7th day of November 1968.

(L.S.)

R. R. Butler,
Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations require the Northern Ireland General Health Services Board to issue to a person who pays the prescribed sum a certificate of exemption from charges otherwise payable under the Health Services (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968 and make some consequential and other minor amendments to those regulations.