

EXECUTIVE NOTE TO

**THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (TRAVELLING EXPENSES AND
REMISSION OF CHARGES) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2008
SSI 2008/ 147**

1. The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred on Scottish Ministers by sections 75A, 105(7) and 108(1) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 and all powers enabling them to do so.

Policy objectives

2 The purpose of these regulations is to amend the National Health Service (Travelling Expenses and Remission of Charges) (Scotland) (No.2) Regulations 2003 (the principal Regulations) (SSI 2003/460) in respect of the provisions set out below:-

The NHS Low Income Scheme (LIS) - amount of patients' assets to be taken into account

3 The amounts of capital assets to be taken into account in the assessment of patients' Low Income Scheme (LIS) claims under these regulations are uprated with effect from 6 May 2008. The effect of these amendments is to keep the amounts at the same level for LIS claimants across the UK.

Consultation

4 There has been no consultation in respect of these regulations. This is normal practice when regulations are introduced to take account of changes to the benefit regime, which applies in respect of the increase of capital assets allowed in the assessment of entitlement to help under the LIS.

Financial effects

5 The financial effect of these amendments is unlikely to be significant. LIS claimants who benefit from the adjustment of capital limits will receive more help with health charges and the effect will be a reduction in charge income, spread across Health Boards. The number of people who will benefit from these changes is very difficult to predict, as it depends on the financial circumstances declared by individual claimants. The loss of income to Health Boards will depend on the extent to which their LIS certificates are used by these claimants.

Scottish Government, Primary and Community Care Directorate
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