
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (“the GMS Regulations”), the National Health Service (Primary Medical Services Section 17C Agreements) (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (“the Section 17C Regulations”) and the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (“the 2009 Regulations”), by extending the definition of prescriber through the insertion of two new categories of independent prescriber: physiotherapist independent prescriber and podiatrist or chiropodist independent prescriber.

The GMS Regulations and the Section 17C Regulations contain rules about the supply of drugs, medicines or appliances by GPs, which are modified in relation to drugs, medicines or appliances prescribed by certain independent prescribers. Regulations 4(a) and 7(a) amend those modifications so that they also apply in the case of a physiotherapist independent prescriber or a podiatrist or chiropodist independent prescriber. Regulations 4(b) and 7(b) adds the new types of independent prescribers into provision requiring GPs to notify Health Boards when they engage or terminate a prescribing independent prescriber.

In addition, regulation 10 amends paragraph 4(2)(c)(i)(bb) of Schedule 1 to the 2009 Regulations to increase the period for which drugs, medicines or listed appliances under a serial prescription can be ordered from 48 to 56 weeks.