



Health and Social Care Act 2001

2001 CHAPTER 15

PART 1

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

*General and personal medical services, general dental services,
general ophthalmic services and pharmaceutical services*

25 Suspension and disqualification of practitioners

After section 49E of the 1977 Act (which is repealed by this Act) there shall be inserted—

“49F Disqualification of practitioners

- (1) If it appears to a Health Authority that any of the conditions set out in subsections (2) to (4) is established in relation to a person included in any of the following prepared by them—
 - (a) a list of medical practitioners undertaking to provide general medical services,
 - (b) a list of medical practitioners undertaking to provide general ophthalmic services,
 - (c) a list of dental practitioners and dental corporations undertaking to provide general dental services,
 - (d) a list of ophthalmic opticians undertaking to provide general ophthalmic services, or
 - (e) a list of persons undertaking to provide pharmaceutical services,(such a person being referred to in this group of sections as a “practitioner”), they may (or, in cases falling within subsection (6), must) decide to remove him from that list.
- (2) The first condition is that the continued inclusion of the person concerned in the list would be prejudicial to the efficiency of the services which those included

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2006. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Health and Social Care Act 2001, Section 25. (See end of Document for details)

in the list undertake to provide (and such a case is referred to in this group of sections as an “efficiency case”).

- (3) The second condition is that the person concerned—
 - (a) has (whether on his own or together with another) by an act or omission caused, or risked causing, detriment to any health scheme by securing or trying to secure for himself or another any financial or other benefit, and
 - (b) knew that he or (as the case may be) the other was not entitled to the benefit,
 (and such a case is referred to in this group of sections as a “fraud case”).
- (4) The third condition is that the person concerned is unsuitable to be included in the list (and such a case is referred to in this group of sections as an “unsuitability case”).
- (5) “This group of sections” means this section and sections 49G to 49R below.
- (6) In unsuitability cases, the Health Authority must remove the practitioner from the list in prescribed circumstances.
- (7) The Health Authority must state which condition (or conditions) they are relying on when removing a practitioner from a list.
- (8) In subsection (3), “health scheme” means—
 - (a) any of the health services under section 1(1) above or any corresponding enactment extending to Scotland or Northern Ireland, and
 - (b) any prescribed scheme,
 and regulations may prescribe any scheme for the purposes of this subsection which appears to the Secretary of State to be a health or medical scheme paid for out of public funds.
- (9) Detriment to a health scheme includes detriment to any patient of, or person working in, that scheme or any person liable to pay charges for services provided under that scheme.

49G Contingent removal

- (1) In an efficiency case or a fraud case, the Health Authority may, instead of deciding to remove a practitioner from their list, decide to remove him contingently.
- (2) If they so decide, they must impose such conditions as they may decide on his inclusion in the list with a view to—
 - (a) removing any prejudice to the efficiency of the services in question (in an efficiency case), or
 - (b) preventing further acts or omissions within section 49F(3)(a) above (in a fraud case).
- (3) If the Health Authority determine that the practitioner has failed to comply with a condition, they may decide to—
 - (a) vary the conditions, or impose different conditions, or
 - (b) remove him from their list.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2006. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Health and Social Care Act 2001, Section 25. (See end of Document for details)

- (4) The Health Authority may decide to vary the terms of service of the person concerned for the purpose of or in connection with the imposition of any conditions by virtue of this section.

49H Fraud and unsuitability cases: supplementary

- (1) Where the practitioner is a body corporate, the body corporate is to be treated for the purposes of this group of sections as meeting the second or third condition referred to in section 49F(3) and (4) above—
- (a) in the case of an ophthalmic optician not referred to in paragraph (b) or a dental corporation, if any director meets that condition (whether or not he first did so when he was a director), and
 - (b) in the case of a body corporate carrying on a retail pharmacy business or an ophthalmic optician which is a limited liability partnership, if any one of the body of persons controlling the body meets that condition (whether or not he first did so when he was such a person).
- (2) A practitioner is to be treated for the purposes of this group of sections as meeting the condition referred to in section 49F(3) above if—
- (a) another person, because of an act or omission of his occurring in the course of providing any services mentioned in section 49F(1) above on the practitioner's behalf, meets that condition; and
 - (b) the practitioner failed to take all such steps as were reasonable to prevent acts or omissions within section 49F(3)(a) above occurring in the course of the provision of those services on his behalf.

49I Suspension

- (1) If the Health Authority are satisfied that it is necessary to do so for the protection of members of the public or is otherwise in the public interest, they may suspend a practitioner from their list—
- (a) while they decide whether or not to exercise their powers under section 49F or 49G (other than in circumstances falling within paragraph (b)), or
 - (b) while they wait for a decision affecting the practitioner of a court or of a body which regulates—
 - (i) the practitioner's profession,
 - (ii) the profession of a person providing any of the services mentioned in section 49F(1) on the practitioner's behalf, or
 - (iii) if the practitioner is a body corporate, the profession of one of its directors or, as the case may be, one of the body of persons controlling it or (if it is a limited liability partnership) one of its members,or one of that regulatory body's committees.
- (2) The references in subsection (1)(b) to a court or regulatory body are to a court or such a body anywhere in the world.
- (3) In a case falling within subsection (1)(a), the Health Authority must specify how long the period of suspension is to be.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2006. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Health and Social Care Act 2001, Section 25. (See end of Document for details)

- (4) In a case falling within subsection (1)(b), the Health Authority may specify that the practitioner shall remain suspended after the decision referred to there for an additional period which the Health Authority must specify.
- (5) In either case—
 - (a) before that period expires they may extend, or further extend, the suspension for a further specified period, or
 - (b) if that period has expired, they may impose a further suspension, for a period which they must specify.
- (6) The period of suspension (in a subsection (1)(a) case) or the additional period (in a subsection (1)(b) case), including in both cases the period of any further suspension imposed under subsection (5)(b), may not exceed six months in aggregate, except—
 - (a) in prescribed circumstances, when it may not extend beyond any prescribed event (which may be the expiry of a prescribed period),
 - (b) if, on the application of the Health Authority, the FHSAA orders accordingly before the expiry of the period of suspension, or
 - (c) if the Health Authority have applied under paragraph (b) before the expiry of the period of suspension, but the FHSAA has not made an order by the time it expires, in which case it continues until the FHSAA has made an order.
- (7) If the FHSAA does so order, it shall specify—
 - (a) the date on which the period of suspension is to end, or
 - (b) an event beyond which it is not to continue.
- (8) The FHSAA may, on the application of the Health Authority, make a further order (complying with subsection (7)) at any time while the period of suspension pursuant to the earlier order is still continuing.
- (9) The Secretary of State may make regulations providing for payments to practitioners who are suspended.
- (10) Those regulations may include provision for the amount of the payments, or the method of calculating the amount, to be determined by the Secretary of State or by another person appointed for the purpose by the Secretary of State.

49J Suspension pending appeal

- (1) This section applies if the Health Authority decide to remove a practitioner from a list under section 49F.
- (2) In such a case they may also decide to suspend the practitioner from the list pending any appeal by him, if they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so for the protection of members of the public or is otherwise in the public interest.
- (3) If they do suspend the practitioner under this section, the suspension has effect from the date when the Health Authority gave him notice of the suspension.
- (4) The suspension has effect until its revocation under subsection (5) or (6) or, if later, until the expiry of the period of 28 days referred to in section 49M(1) below, or, if the practitioner appeals under section 49M, until the FHSAA has disposed of the appeal.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2006. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Health and Social Care Act 2001, Section 25. (See end of Document for details)

- (5) The Health Authority may revoke a suspension imposed under this section.
- (6) If the practitioner appeals under section 49M against the Health Authority's decision to remove him from the list, the FHSAA may also revoke a suspension imposed on him under this section.
- (7) Subsections (9) and (10) of section 49I above apply for the purposes of this section as they apply for the purposes of that.

49K Effect of suspension

While a practitioner is suspended (whether under section 49I or under section 49J above) he is to be treated as not being included in the list from which he has been suspended even though his name appears in it.

49L Review of decisions

- (1) The Health Authority may, and (except in prescribed cases) if requested in writing to do so by the practitioner must, review a contingent removal or a suspension (other than a contingent removal or a suspension imposed by, or a suspension continuing pursuant to, an order of the FHSAA, or a suspension imposed under section 49J above).
- (2) The practitioner may not request a review before the expiry of the period of—
 - (a) three months beginning with the date of the Health Authority's decision to suspend or contingently remove him, or (as appropriate),
 - (b) six months beginning with the date of their decision on the previous review.
- (3) On such a review, the Health Authority may—
 - (a) confirm the contingent removal or the suspension,
 - (b) in the case of a suspension, terminate it,
 - (c) in the case of a contingent removal, vary the conditions, impose different conditions, revoke the contingent removal, or remove the practitioner from the list.

49M Appeals

- (1) A practitioner may appeal to the FHSAA against a decision of a Health Authority mentioned in subsection (2) by giving notice in writing to the FHSAA within the period of 28 days beginning with the date on which the Health Authority gave him notice of the decision.
- (2) The Health Authority decisions in question are—
 - (a) to remove the practitioner from a list (under section 49F or 49G(3) or under subsection (5)(b) of this section),
 - (b) to remove him contingently (under section 49G),
 - (c) to impose any particular condition under section 49G, or to vary any condition or to impose any different condition under that section,
 - (d) to vary his terms of service (under section 49G(4)),
 - (e) any decision on a review of a contingent removal under section 49L.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2006. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Health and Social Care Act 2001, Section 25. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) The appeal shall be by way of redetermination of the Health Authority's decision.
- (4) On an appeal, the FHSAA may make any decision which the Health Authority could have made.
- (5) If the FHSAA decides to remove the practitioner contingently—
 - (a) the Health Authority and the practitioner may each apply to the FHSAA for the conditions imposed on the practitioner to be varied, for different conditions to be imposed, or for the contingent removal to be revoked, and
 - (b) the Health Authority may remove him from their list if they determine that he has failed to comply with a condition.
- (6) The Health Authority shall not remove a person from a list, or impose a contingent removal—
 - (a) until the expiry of the period of 28 days referred to in subsection (1), or
 - (b) if the practitioner appeals within that period, until the FHSAA has disposed of the appeal.
- (7) Regulations may provide for payments by Health Authorities to practitioners who are removed from lists pursuant to decisions of the FHSAA under this section, but whose appeals against those decisions are successful.

49N National disqualification

- (1) If the FHSAA removes the practitioner from a list, it may also decide to disqualify him from inclusion in—
 - (a) all lists referred to in section 49F(1)(a) to (e) prepared by all Health Authorities,
 - (b) all supplementary lists prepared by all Health Authorities, and
 - (c) all services lists prepared by all Health Authorities under section 28DA above or under section 8ZA of the National Health Service (Primary Care) Act 1997 (c. 46), or any list corresponding to a services list prepared by any Health Authority by virtue of regulations made under section 41 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001,
 or only from inclusion in one or more descriptions of such lists prepared by all Health Authorities, the description being specified by the FHSAA in its decision.
- (2) A decision by the FHSAA to do what is mentioned in subsection (1) is referred to in this section as the imposition of a national disqualification.
- (3) The FHSAA may also impose a national disqualification on a practitioner if it dismisses an appeal by him against a Health Authority's refusal to include him in such a list (or, in the case of a medical list, to nominate or approve him for inclusion in it).
- (4) The Health Authority may apply to the FHSAA for a national disqualification to be imposed on a person after they have—
 - (a) removed him from a list of theirs of any of the kinds referred to in subsection (1)(a) to (c), or

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2006. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Health and Social Care Act 2001, Section 25. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) refused to include him in such a list (or, in the case of a medical list, to nominate or approve him for inclusion in it).
- (5) Any such application must be made before the end of the period of three months beginning with the date of the removal or of their refusal.
- (6) If the FHSAA imposes a national disqualification on a person—
 - (a) no Health Authority may include him in a list of any of the kinds from which he has been disqualified from inclusion prepared by them, and
 - (b) if he is included in such a list, each Health Authority in whose list he is included must remove him from it.
- (7) The FHSAA may at the request of the person upon whom it has been imposed review a national disqualification, and on a review may confirm it or revoke it.
- (8) Subject to subsection (9), the person may not request such a review before the end of the period of—
 - (a) two years beginning with the date on which the national disqualification was imposed, or
 - (b) one year beginning with the date of the FHSAA's decision on the last such review.
- (9) The Secretary of State may provide in regulations for subsection (8) to have effect in prescribed circumstances as if the reference there to “two years” or “one year” were a reference to a different period specified in the regulations.

49O Notification of decisions

Regulations may require a Health Authority to notify prescribed persons, or persons of prescribed descriptions, of any decision they make under this group of sections, and of any information relevant to the decision which they consider it appropriate to include in the notification.

49P Withdrawal from lists

Regulations may provide for circumstances in which a practitioner—

- (a) whom a Health Authority are investigating in order to see whether there are grounds for exercising their powers under section 49F, 49G or 49I,
 - (b) whom a Health Authority have decided to remove from a list under section 49F or 49G, or contingently remove under section 49G, but who has not yet been removed or contingently removed, or
 - (c) who has been suspended under section 49I,
- may not withdraw from a list in which he is included.

49Q Regulations

- (1) Any decision by a Health Authority referred to in this group of sections shall be reached in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State about such decisions.
- (2) The regulations shall include provision—
 - (a) requiring the practitioner to be given notice of any allegation against him,

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2006. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Health and Social Care Act 2001, Section 25. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) giving him the opportunity of putting his case at a hearing before a Health Authority make any decision affecting him under this group of sections,
 - (c) requiring him to be given notice of the Health Authority's decision and the reasons for it and of any right of appeal which he may have.
- (3) The regulations may, in particular, make provision as to criteria which the Health Authority must apply when making decisions in unsuitability cases.

49R Corresponding provision in Scotland and Northern Ireland

- (1) This section applies where it appears to the Secretary of State that there is provision in Scotland or Northern Ireland under which a person may be dealt with in any way which corresponds (whether or not exactly) with a way in which a person may be dealt with under this group of sections.
- (2) A decision in Scotland or Northern Ireland to deal with such a person in such a way is referred to in this section as a "corresponding decision".
- (3) If this section applies, the Secretary of State may make regulations providing for the effect to be given in England and Wales to a corresponding decision.
- (4) That effect need not be the same as the effect of the decision in the place where it was made.
- (5) The regulations may not provide for a corresponding decision to be reviewed or revoked in England and Wales."

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 25 partly in force; s. 25 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 70(2); s. 25 in force for E. for certain purposes at 22.11.2001 by S.I. 2001/3738, arts. 1(3), 2(1), Sch. 1 Pt. I; s. 25 in force for E. for certain purposes at 22.11.2001 and 14.12.2001 by S.I. 2001/3738, arts. 1(3), 2(2)(3), Sch. 1 Pts. II, III; s. 25 in force for W. at 1.7.2002 by S.I. 2002/1475, art. 2(1), Sch. Pt. 1
- I2** S. 25 in force at 1.2.2003 for E. in so far as not already in force by S.I. 2003/53, art. 4(b)

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/04/2006. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Health and Social Care Act 2001, Section 25.