

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO  
THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (CHARGES FOR DRUGS AND  
APPLIANCES) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2011**

**2011 No. 518**

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

**2. Purpose of the instrument**

2.1 These Regulations amend the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations 2000, (the Charges Regulations).

**3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**

3.1 None.

**4. Legislative Context**

4.1 These regulations amend the Charges Regulations to provide a routine uprating of amounts.

**5. Territorial Extent and Application**

5.1 This instrument applies to England.

**6. European Convention on Human Rights**

As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

**7. Policy background**

7.1 The amount of the charge for an NHS prescription item, the circumstances in which a charge shall, or shall not, be made and the patients who are exempt from prescription charges are set out in the Charges Regulations. The change in these regulations increases the current single prescription charge in respect of drugs and appliances by 20p, which will help maintain the contribution charges make to NHS funding. The increases in the other charges made by these regulations are in line with the rate of increase in the prescription charge.

**Consolidation**

7.2 Consolidation of these regulations will be considered in the light of any policy changes relating to prescription charges policy, such as changes to the age at which a person becomes exempt, currently this is age 60.

## **8. Consultation Outcome**

8.1 No consultation has taken place, as this instrument does not alter existing policy.

## **9. Guidance**

9.1 No guidance has been prepared for this instrument. Pharmacists and NHS Trusts will be notified of the increased prescription charge.

## **10. Impact**

10.1 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies is foreseen.

10.2 There is minimal cost to the public sector. Dispensers will need to be aware of the increase in charges and collect the increased amount. The National Health Service Business Support Authority will need to amend their systems to reflect the increased level of the prescription charge and PPC fee. The cost to the public is an additional 20p per prescribed medicine or appliance dispensed to those who are not entitled to free prescriptions. The additional cost per prepayment certificate or appliance is as set out in regulation 2. There is no increase in the cost of a 12-month prepayment certificate.

## **11. Regulating small business**

11.1 The legislation only applies to Pharmacies and Dispensing GPs. There is no additional burden to business.

## **12. Monitoring and Review**

12.1 Options to increase National Health Service charges are considered annually.

## **13. Contact**

**Gina Jones** at the Department of Health Tel: 020 7972 2954 or e-mail: [gina.jones@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gina.jones@dh.gsi.gov.uk) can answer any queries regarding the instrument.