



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE
Department of Health

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY

**FOR
REFERENCE ONLY**

**NHS
MEL(1997)21**

NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
18 April 1997
Telephone 0131-244
Fax 0131-244 2683

Dear Colleague

**THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
(PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES)
(SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS
1997**

1. This letter confirms that the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1997 came into force on 1 April 1997. Copies of the Regulations have already been issued to Boards.

2. These regulations amend the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) (Scotland) Regulations 1995 which govern the arrangements to be made by Health Boards for the provision of pharmaceutical services in their area. In effect, the amendment regulations allow the Secretary of State to designate Health Boards as the determining authority for remuneration in respect of certain pharmaceutical services. They also require Health Boards to consult locally prior to setting the level of remuneration and to publish the fees payable in respect of locally contracted pharmaceutical services.

3. The pharmaceutical services which should be determined by local negotiation from 1 April are:-

- Advice to Residential Homes
- Dispensing of Methadone for Drug Users
- Domiciliary Oxygen Service
- Needle Exchange Services
- Disposal of Patients' Unwanted Medicines



HMU03104

Addressees

For action:
General Managers
Health Boards

For information:
Chief Executive, NHS Trusts

General Manager,
Common Services Agency

General Manager,
State Hospitals Board for Scotland

General Manager
Health Education Board for Scotland

Executive Director
SCPMDE

Enquiries to:

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4. Boards may wish to note, in particular, that they now have the authority to determine the structure of services to dispense methadone as they deem appropriate to meet the needs of their area. They should also note that Pharmacy Practice Committees are no longer involved in deciding pharmacist contractor's applications to provide domiciliary oxygen services. This latter change has been effected by paragraphs 2 and 6 of the Amendment Regulations.

5. The Management Executive (ME) wishes to receive basic information on any local contracts established. This should be sent to:- Mr Scott, Chief Pharmacist, Room 26A, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG. (Copies of individual contracts will not be required.)

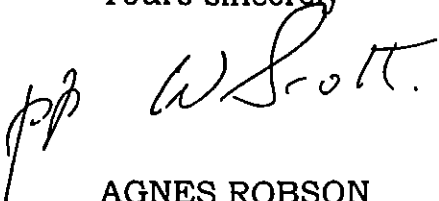
6. As detailed in my letter of 27 February, funding allocations for the services provided under local contracting arrangements form part of each Board's HCH Cash Limit, but will be ring-fenced for pharmaceutical services only. It follows that Health Boards may carry forward underspends, to be used in the following year for the same designated purpose. Health Boards may vire money into the local contracting allocation, but will not be able to vire money out.

7. Further guidance on the implementation of local contracting arrangements will be issued at the earliest possible date.

ACTION

8. Health Boards are asked to bring this letter, as quickly as possible, to the attention of Directors of Finance, Directors of Primary Care, CAPOs and pharmacy contractors. Bulk supplies of this letter will be sent to Primary Care Departments under separate cover for distribution to pharmacy contractors.

Yours sincerely



AGNES ROBSON
Director of Primary Care

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY	
RECEIVED	
21 APR 1997	
FILE No	
	ACTION TAKEN