



Health Department
Directorate of Primary Care

Ref
P-MS: 108142

NHS Management Executive
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

24th March 00

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, CHARGES FOR DRUGS
AND APPLIANCES FROM 1 APRIL 2000**

Summary

- This letter advises Health Boards and NHS Trusts of:
 - revised Health Service charges to take effect from 1 April 2000;
 - when the new rates of pre-payment certificates should be applied;
 - availability of revised publicity material and forms.

Full details are contained in the attached Annex.

Action

2. Health Boards and NHS Trusts are asked to bring the Memorandum to this letter, which contains advice on exemption and remission of charges, as quickly as possible, to the attention of all staff involved in dealing with matters relating to prescription charges and refunds, pre-payment certificates, elastic stockings, tights, fabric supports and wigs. Bulk supplies of the Memorandum are being sent under separate cover.

Yours sincerely

Aune MacLeod

PP

DR HAMISH WILSON
Directorate of Primary Care

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY
27 MAR 2000
LIBRARY

Addresses

For action

General Managers, Health Boards

General Manager,
Common Services Agency

General Manager,
State Hospital Board for Scotland

General Manager, HEBS

Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

To be copied to
Unit General Managers for
information

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Ref: NIP/6/21





BACKGROUND PRESCRIPTION CHARGES AND THE COST OF PREPAYMENT CERTIFICATES

1. Regulations have been made and laid before Parliament providing for the following revisions:-

- 1.1 Prescription Charges: The prescription charge for drugs and appliances supplied on or after 1 April 2000 through the primary care services will be £6.00 per item. This charge will also apply to all items of elastic hosiery supplied, ie the charge for each elastic stocking will be £6.00 (£12.00 per pair).
- 1.2 Charges for Items Supplied by Hospitals to Out-Patients: The prescription charge for drugs and most appliances supplied to hospital out-patients will also be increased to £6.00 per item from 1 April 2000. It should be noted however that tights supplied only through the hospital service, will attract a charge of £12.00 per pair. Charges for fabric supports and wigs are listed at paragraph 4 below.
- 1.3 Pre-payment Certificates: For all applications received by Practitioner Services Division on or after 1 April 2000 the charges for pre-payment certificates will be as follows:-

Certificates valid for 4 months - £31.40
Certificates valid for 12 months - £86.20

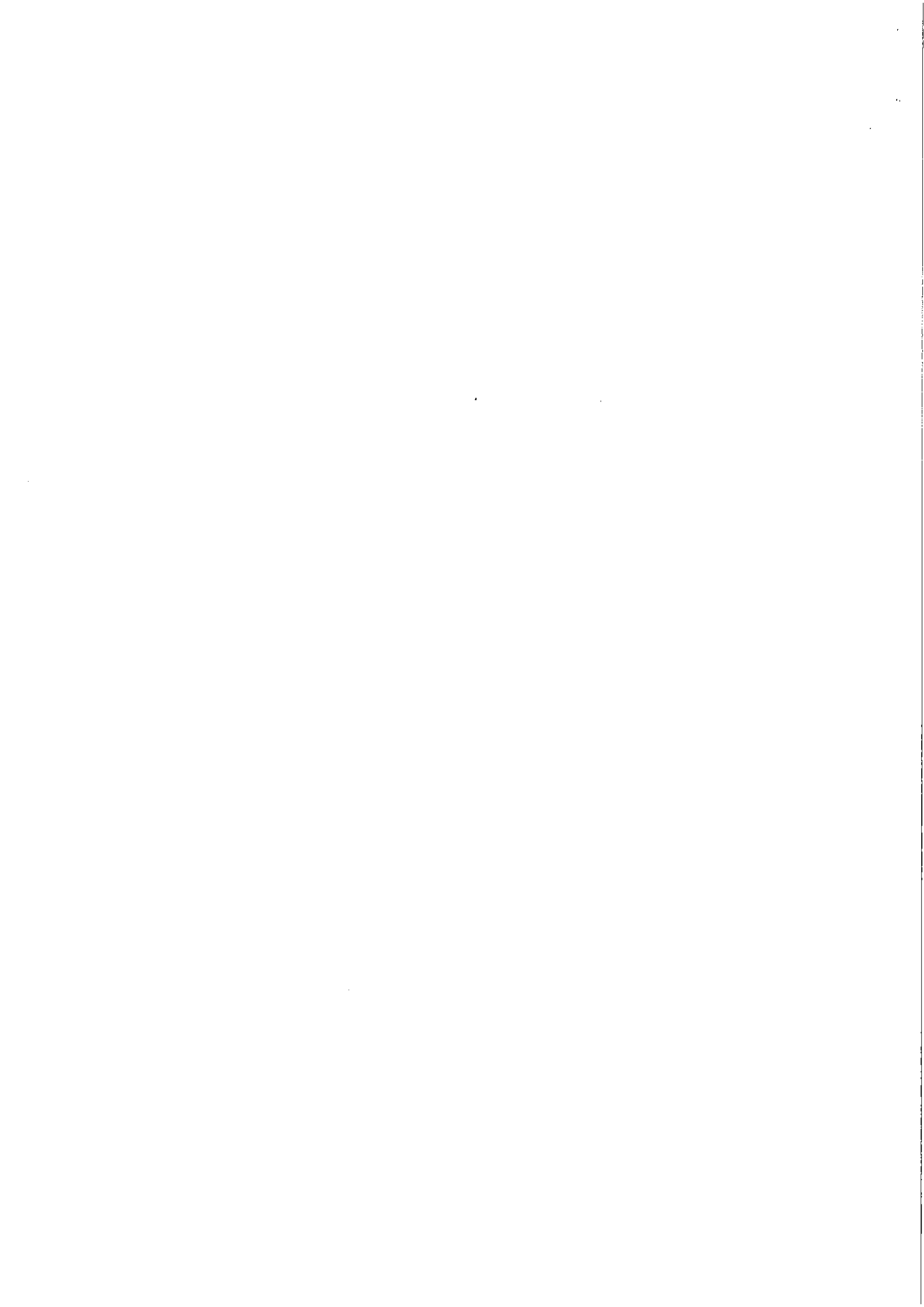
2. Practitioner Services Division are asked to note that the new rates should be applied to all applications for pre-payment certificates which are received by Practitioner Services Division on or after 1 April 2000. (The new rates will apply even where the start date of the certificate is backdated to before 1 April to allow for recovery of prescription charges already paid.) The new rates should not be applied to certificates where application is received prior to 1 April 2000, regardless of the starting date of the certificate. Pre-payment certificates should not be issued with starting dates more than 7 days earlier, or one month later, than the date on which the application is received. (ESC(P)34.1968 refers).

3. Prepayment certificates cover hospital out-patient charges for drugs and appliances (other than fabric supports and wigs) supplied through the hospital service.

CHARGES FOR FABRIC SUPPORTS AND WIGS

4. As from 1 April 2000 the charges for these items, supplied only through the hospital service, are as follows:-

Surgical Brassiere	£20.30
Abdominal or Spinal Support	£30.50
Stock Modacrylic Wig	£49.90
Partial Human Hair Wig	£131.50
Full Bespoke Human Hair Wig	£192.20



COLLECTION OF CHARGES IN HOSPITALS

5. Health Boards and NHS Trusts are asked to ensure that hospital authorities make adequate arrangements for collecting and bringing to account charges made in hospitals.

PUBLICITY ABOUT PRESCRIPTION CHARGES AND PREPAYMENT CERTIFICATES

6. A revised leaflet HC12 "Charges and Optical Voucher Values" is being updated to include revised figures from 1 April 2000 and will be issued in due course. Any remaining stocks of the HC12 effective from 1 April 1999 should be destroyed when the April 2000 version is received.

7. Leaflets HC11/HC11(LP) – patients' leaflets – are being updated and will be issued in due course. Remaining stock of earlier versions should be destroyed when you receive the 1 April 2000 version.

8. A bulk supply of the revised publicity material will be sent to Health Boards for distribution to GPs, pharmacy contractors, general dental practitioners, opticians and ophthalmic medical practitioners. As Boards know the usage of these forms in their area, they should decide how many copies should be sent to each practitioner. Bulk supplies of the revised publicity material will also be sent to Trusts for use by the public and also for appliance suppliers.

9. Pre-payment Certificates: A revised application form for the purchase of prepayment certificates (form EC95 (Rev April 2000)) is being printed. Any remaining stocks of the forms showing April 1999 fees should be destroyed on receipt of the April 2000 revised version.

REGULATIONS

10. Copies of the NHS (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2000 which give effect to these changes will be sent to Health Boards in due course.



Memorandum to MEL (2000)

General Medical Practitioners
Pharmacy Contractors
Appliance Suppliers

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CHARGES FOR DRUGS, APPLIANCES, WIGS AND FABRIC SUPPORTS AND THE COST OF PRE-PAYMENT CERTIFICATES FROM 1 APRIL 2000:

1. This Memorandum advises doctors, pharmacy contractors and appliance suppliers of:-
 - the charges which will apply from 1 April 2000 for drugs and appliances supplied under the NHS (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2000;
 - availability of revised publicity material and forms.

PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

2. Regulations have been laid before Parliament to increase prescription charges from 1 April 2000.

Item Charge

a. Elastic hosiery including stockings (excluding tights)	£6.00 each (ie £12.00 per pair)
b. Each other appliance and each quantity of a drug (including oxygen cylinders)	£6.00
c. Tights supplied through the hospital service	£12.00 per pair
d. Surgical brassiere	£20.30
e. Abdominal or spinal support	£30.50
f. Stock modacrylic wig	£49.90
g. Partial human hair wig	£131.50
h. Full bespoke human hair wig	£192.20

Item charges a. and b. above will also be payable for items supplied by hospitals to out-patients.

Item charges at c. to h. above apply where the consultation at which the supply of the item is authorised takes place on or after 1 April 2000.



EXEMPTION AND REMISSION CATEGORIES

3. This paragraph sets out the arrangements for exemption from prescription charges and remission of charges. (Claims for remission of charges under the NHS Low Income Scheme must be submitted on claim form HC1 or refund form HC5.)

3.1 The grounds on which a person may qualify for exemption in respect of the items listed at a. and b. in paragraph 2 above are as follows:-

3.1.1 a person who is under 16 years of age;

3.1.2 a person who is under 19 years of age and is receiving full-time education;

3.1.3 a person aged 60 or over;

3.1.4 a woman with a valid exemption certificate issued by a Primary Care Trust/Island Health Board because she is an expectant mother or has within the last 12 months given birth to a live child or a child registered still-born under the Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965 as amended by the Still-birth (Definition) Act 1992;

3.1.5 a person with a valid exemption certificate issued by a Primary Care Trust/Island Health Board on the grounds that he/she has one or more of the following conditions:

- permanent fistula (including caecostomy, colostomy, laryngostomy or ileostomy) which requires continuous surgical dressing or requires an appliance;
- epilepsy requiring continuous anti-convulsive therapy;
- a continuing physical disability which prevents the patient leaving home without the help of another person (temporary disabilities do not count even if they last for several months);
- diabetes mellitus except where treatment is by diet alone;
- hypoparathyroidism;
- diabetes insipidus or other forms of hypopituitarism;
- forms of hypoadrenalism (including Addison's disease) for which specific substitution therapy is essential;
- myasthenia gravis;
- myxoedema or other conditions where supplemental thyroid hormone is necessary;



- 3.1.6 a person receiving a War or MOD Disablement Pension holding a valid exemption certificate in respect of the supply of drugs and appliances for the treatment of the accepted disablement only.
- 3.2 Full remission of charges in respect of the items a. and b. in paragraph 2 above may be claimed by:-
- 3.2.1 people and their partners receiving:-
- Income Support
 - Family Credit (ceases 3 April 2000)
 - Disability Working Allowance (ceases 3 April 2000)
 - Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC)
 - Disabled Person's Tax Credit (DPTC)
 - Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- 3.2.2 people aged 16 or over, and their partners, covered by a valid NHS Charges Certificate for full help (HC2) issued by the Health Benefits Division of the Prescription Pricing Authority.
- 3.3 A person may qualify for exemption in respect of the items listed at c. to h. in paragraph 2 above, if he or she is:-
- 3.3.1 a hospital in-patient at the time the wig or fabric support is supplied;
- 3.3.2 a person who is under 16 years of age;
- 3.3.3 a person who is under 19 years of age and is receiving full-time education;
- 3.3.4 a person receiving a War or MOD Disablement Pension who needs a wig or fabric support because of a disability for which the War or MOD Pension is being paid.
- 3.4 Full or partial remission of charges in respect of items c. to h. in paragraph 2 above, may be available to:-
- 3.4.1 people and their partners receiving:-
- Income Support
 - Family Credit (ceases 3 April 2000)
 - Disability Working Allowance (ceases 3 April 2000)
 - Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC)
 - Disabled Person's Tax Credit (DPTC)
 - Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- 3.4.2 people aged 16 or over, and their partners, covered by a valid NHS Charges Certificate for full help (HC2) or partial help (HC3), issued by the Health Benefits Division of the Prescription Pricing Authority.



CHARGES IN RESPECT OF HOSPITAL-BASED SERVICES

In-patients

4. No charge may be made for any NHS appliance supplied to a hospital in-patient.

Out-patients

5. Out-patients may be charged only for those appliances specified in the appropriate Regulations ie wigs, abdominal and spinal supports, dentures and bridges, elastic hosiery and contact lenses, and for prescribed appliances etc which are listed in the Drug Tariff (and for contact lens fluid supplied as part of contact lens therapy). The revised NHS charges set out in this Memorandum will be payable, except in those cases where the patient is exempt or eligible for remission of charges.

Day Surgery Patients

6. Drugs administered to day surgery patients in hospitals are free of charge as are those drugs supplied until such time as the patient can attend their General Practitioner. Day surgery patients who get a prescription from a hospital doctor which is dispensed in the hospital pharmacy are liable for prescription charges (unless they are exempt or eligible for remission of charges).

COST OF PRE-PAYMENT CERTIFICATES

7. In respect of all applications received by Practitioner Services Division on or after 1 April 2000 the cost of pre-payment certificates will be as follows:-

Certificates valid for 4 months - £31.40
Certificates valid for 12 months - £86.20

8. A certificate continues to offer a saving to people who need more than 5 prescribed items in a period of 4 months, or more than 14 items in a year and who are not exempt from prescription charges. Besides entitling the holder to claim exemption from prescription charges, a prepayment certificate also provides exemption from hospital out-patient charges for drugs and appliances (other than for fabric supports and wigs supplied through the hospital service).

PHARMACIST CONTRACTORS AND APPLIANCE SUPPLIERS: SORTING OF PRESCRIPTION FORMS

9. In general, prescriptions written on or after 1 April 2000, including those dispensed by pharmacist contractors and appliance suppliers on prescription forms submitted to the Pharmacy Practice Division, will be assumed to be at the increased rate. Where this is not the case (eg a referred-back prescription from a previous month) contractors are requested, in their own interest, to sort into bundles (and label accordingly) prescriptions on which the old charge had been collected.

DISPENSING DOCTORS

10. Dispensing doctors should collect prescription charges at the new rate from 1 April 2000 and remit them to Primary Care Trusts/Islands' Health Boards in the normal way.

PUBLICITY ABOUT PRESCRIPTION CHARGES AND PREPAYMENT CERTIFICATES

11. A revised leaflet HC12 "Charges and Optical Voucher Values" is being updated to include revised figures from 1 April 2000 and will be issued in due course. Any remaining stocks of the HC12 effective from 1 April 1999 should be destroyed when the April 2000 version is received.

12. Pre-payment Certificates: A revised application form for the purchase of prepayment certificates (form EC95 (Rev April 2000)) is being printed. Any remaining stocks of the forms showing April 1999 fees should be destroyed on receipt of the April 2000 revised version.

13. Leaflet HC11/HC11(LP): Patients' leaflets are being updated and will be issued in due course. Remaining stocks of earlier versions should be destroyed when you receive the April 2000 version.

14. Any questions arising from this Memorandum should be addressed to the relevant Primary Care Trust/Islands' Health Board.

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March 2000

File ref: NIP/6/21

