

---

STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

---

**1998 No. 94**

**HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Charges for Drugs and Appliances (Amendment)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998**

*Made* - - - - *11th March 1998*

*Coming into operation* *1st April 1998*

The Department of Health and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 98 and 106 of, and Schedules 15 to, the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(1) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel, hereby makes the following Regulations:

**Citation, commencement and interpretation**

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Charges for Drugs and Appliances (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998 and shall come into operation on 1st April 1998.

(2) In these Regulations “the principal Regulations” means the Charges for Drugs and Appliances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997(2).

**Amendment of regulation 2 of the principal Regulations**

2. In regulation 2(2)(a)(iii) and (2)(b)(ii) (interpretation) the words from “fundholding” to “effect” shall be deleted and the words “medical practitioner whose name is included in the medical list” substituted therefor.

**Amendment of regulation 3 of the principal Regulations**

3. In regulation 3 (supply of drugs and appliances by chemists)—

- (a) in paragraphs (1)(a), (b) and (3) for “£5·65” there shall be substituted “£5·80”;
- (b) in paragraph (1)(a) for “£11·30” there shall be substituted “£11·60”; and
- (c) for paragraph (6) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(6) Any sum which would otherwise be payable by the Agency to a doctor in respect of provision by him of pharmaceutical services shall be reduced by the amount

---

(1) S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14); the relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1986/2229 (N.I. 24) Article 14, S.I. 1988/2249 (N.I. 24) Article 7 and S.I. 1991/194 (N.I. 1) Article 34 and Part II of Schedule 5  
(2) S.R. 1997 No. 382

of any charges which are required to be made and recovered by preceding provisions of this regulation.”.

#### **Amendment of regulation 4 of the principal Regulations**

4. In regulation 4 (supply of drugs and appliances by doctors)—
- (a) in paragraphs (1)(a), (b) and (3) for “£5·65” there shall be substituted “£5·80”; and
  - (b) in paragraph (1)(a) for “£11·30” there shall be substituted “£11·60”.

#### **Amendment of regulation 5 of the principal Regulations**

5. In regulation 5 (supply of drugs and appliances by a Board or an HSS Trust)—
- (a) in paragraphs (1)(a), (d) and (3) for “£5·65” there shall be substituted “£5·80”; and
  - (b) in paragraphs (1)(a) and (c) for “£11·30” there shall be substituted “£11·60”.

#### **Amendment of regulation 9 of the principal Regulations**

6. In regulation 9(5) (pre-payment certificates) for “£29·30” there shall be substituted “£30·10” and for “£80·50” there shall be substituted “£82·70”.

#### **Amendment of Schedule 1 to the principal Regulations**

7. For Schedule 1 there shall be substituted the following—

“SCHEDULE 1

**Charges for Fabric Supports and Wigs**

Column (1) <i>Specified Appliance</i>	Column (2) <i>Specified Charge</i>
Surgical Brassiere	£19·75
Abdominal or Spinal Support	£29·50
Stock Modacrylic Wig	£48·00
Partial Human Hair Wig	£126·00
Full Bespoke Human Hair Wig	£184·50”

#### **Transitional provisions**

8. Where on or after 1st April 1998—
- (a) any appliance specified in Schedule 1 to the principal Regulations is supplied pursuant to an order given before that date; or
  - (b) any prepayment certificate is granted under regulation 9 of the principal Regulations pursuant to an application under that Regulation which was received before that date,

the principal Regulations shall have effect in relation to that supply or, as the case may be, that grant as if regulations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of these Regulations had not come into operation.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services on

L.S.

11th March 1998.

*P. A. Conliffe*  
Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance and Personnel hereby approves the foregoing Regulations  
Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel on

L.S.

11th March 1998.

*J. G. Sullivan*  
Assistant Secretary

**Status:** This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

---

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations amend the Charges for Drugs and Appliances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (“the principal Regulations”), which provide for the making and recovery of charges for drugs and appliances supplied by doctors and chemists providing pharmaceutical services, and by hospitals and HSS trusts to out-patients.

The charge for each item on prescription is increased from £5·65 to £5·80. The sums prescribed for the grant of pre-payment certificates of exemption from prescription charges are increased from £29·30 to £30·10 for a 4 month certificate and from £80·50 to £82·70 for a 12 month certificate.

The charge for elastic stockings is increased from £5·65 to £5·80 for each item (from £11·30 to £11·60 per pair) and for tights from £11·30 to £11·60.

The charge for a partial human hair wig is increased from £123·00 to £126·00, and for a stock modacrylic wig from £47·00 to £48·00. The charge for a full bespoke human hair wig is increased from £179·50 to £184·50. The charge for an abdominal or spinal support from £29·05 to £29·50.

These Regulations also make provision for all nurses employed by medical practitioners (and not just those employed in fundholding practices) to write prescriptions (regulation 2).

The Regulations provide in addition for the reduction of the remuneration of a doctor who provides pharmaceutical services to a patient by the amount of the charge recoverable under the Regulations (regulation 3(c)).

Transitional arrangements are made in respect of pre-payment certificates and appliances ordered, before the coming into force of these Regulations (regulation 8).