

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Pharmaceutical Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010

SR 2010 No. 72

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred by Articles 63(1), (2), 63AA, 64, 106(b) and 107(6) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972, in conjunction with the Department of Finance and Personnel and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. These Regulations further amend the Pharmaceutical Services Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 ("the Pharmaceutical Regulations") which regulate the terms on which pharmaceutical services are provided under the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972.
- 2.2. These Regulations contain amendments to the provisions of the Pharmaceutical Regulations consequential to the revocation of the Charges for Drugs and Appliances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (regulation 2).
- 2.3. Regulation 2(2) omits the definition of "the Charges for Drugs and Appliances Regulations" from the interpretation provision of the Pharmaceutical Regulations. Regulation 2(3) amends a now redundant reference to entitlement to exemption from charges for people aged 60 or over, by substituting a new wording.
- 2.4. Regulation 2(4) omits references in the Pharmaceutical Regulations which require a chemist or dispensing doctor to ask for proof of exemption from prescription charges. These references are no longer applicable.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Health Minister announced on the 29th September 2008 that he intended to introduce a reduction of prescription charges from the 1st January 2009 with their eventual abolition from the 1st April 2010.
- 3.2. Charges were removed by the Charges for Drugs (Abolition) and Supply of Appliances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 (SR 2010 No.71). These Regulations are consequential to that process.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. These changes to the Pharmaceutical Regulations have been subject to consultation with those representative of the pharmaceutical profession.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. Not applicable

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. Not applicable

7. Financial Implications

7.1. Not applicable

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. The legislation is considered compatible with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Not applicable

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable