
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2022 No. 162

HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES

The Health and Personal Social Services
(General Medical Services Contracts)
(Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022

Made - - - - 24th March 2022

Coming into operation 14th April 2022

The Department of Health(1), in conjunction with the Department of Finance(2) makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 57A, 57E, 106(b) and 107(6) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(3).

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as The Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022 and shall come into operation on 14th April 2022.

(2) In these Regulations “the principal Regulations” means the Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004(4).

Amendment of regulation 2 of the principal Regulations

2. In regulation 2(1) (interpretation)—

(a) at the appropriate places in alphabetical order insert the following definitions—

““chiropracist or podiatrist independent prescriber” means a person—

- (a) who is either engaged or employed by the contractor or is a party to the contract,
- (b) who is registered in Part 2 of the register maintained under Article 5 of the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001(5), and

(1) Formerly the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety; see 2016 c. 5 (N.I.), s1(5)

(2) Formerly the Department of Finance and Personnel, see 2016 c. 5 (N.I.), s1(4)

(3) S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14)

(4) S.R. 2004 No. 140, as amended by S.R. 2004 No.477, S.R. 2005 Nos. 230 and 368, S.R. 2006 No.319, S.R. 2013 Nos. 59 and 301, and S.R. 2015 No.26

(5) Words were substituted by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (Consequential Provision-Social Workers) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/1479 Sch.1(1) para.43)

- (c) against whose name in that register is recorded an annotation signifying that he is qualified to order drugs, medicines and appliances as a chiroprapist or podiatrist independent prescriber;”;

““independent prescriber” means—

- (a) a chiroprapist or podiatrist independent prescriber,
- (b) an independent nurse prescriber,
- (c) an optometrist independent prescriber,
- (d) a paramedic independent prescriber,
- (e) a pharmacist independent prescriber,
- (f) a physiotherapist independent prescriber, and
- (g) a therapeutic radiographer independent prescriber;”;

““optometrist independent prescriber” means a person—

- (a) who is either engaged or employed by the contractor or is a party to the contract,
- (b) who is registered in the register of optometrists maintained under Section 7(a) of the Opticians Act 1989(6), and
- (c) against whose name in that register is recorded an annotation signifying that he is qualified to order drugs, medicines and appliances as an optometrist independent prescriber;”;

““paramedic independent prescriber” means a person—

- (a) who is either engaged or employed by the contractor or is a party to the contract,
- (b) who is registered in Part 8 of the register maintained under Article 5 of the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001, and
- (c) against whose name in that register is recorded an annotation signifying that he is qualified to order drugs, medicines and appliances as a paramedic independent prescriber;”;

““physiotherapist independent prescriber” means a person—

- (a) who is either engaged or employed by the contractor or is a party to the contract,
- (b) registered in Part 9 of the register maintained under Article 5 of the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001, and
- (c) against whose name in that register is recorded an annotation signifying that he is qualified to order drugs, medicines and appliances as a physiotherapist independent prescriber;”;

““therapeutic radiographer independent prescriber” means a radiographer—

- (a) who is either engaged or employed by the contractor or is a party to the contract,
- (b) who is registered in Part 11 of the register maintained under Article 5 of the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001, and
- (c) against whose name in that register is recorded—
 - (i) an entitlement to use the title “therapeutic radiographer”, and

(6) See 1989 c.44. Section 7 was amended by S.I. 2005/848

- (ii) an annotation signifying that he is qualified to order drugs, medicines and appliances as a therapeutic radiographer independent prescriber;”;
- (b) in the definition of “prescriber”—
 - (i) omit sub paragraph (aa); and
 - (ii) in sub paragraph (b) for “an independent nurse prescriber” substitute “an independent prescriber”;
- (c) in the definition of “relevant register”, after paragraph (b) insert the following—
 - “(c) in relation to an optometrist, the register maintained by the General Optical Council in pursuance of Section 7(a) of the Opticians Act 1989; and
 - (d) the part of the register maintained under Article 5 of the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001 relating to—
 - (i) chiropodists and podiatrists;
 - (ii) dietitians;
 - (iii) paramedics;
 - (iv) physiotherapists; and
 - (v) radiographers;”;
- (d) in the definition of “supplementary prescriber”—
 - (i) in sub paragraph (b)(iii) after “1976,” omit “or”;
 - (ii) in sub paragraph (b)(iv)(dd) for “optometrists, and” substitute “dietitians;”;
 - (iii) after sub paragraph (b)(iv)(dd) insert the following sub paragraph—
 - “(ee) paramedics; or”;
 - (iv) after sub paragraph (b)(iv), insert the following sub paragraph—
 - “(v) the register maintained by the General Optical Council in pursuance of Section 7(a) of the Opticians Act 1989;”.

Amendment of Schedule 5 to the principal Regulations

- 3.—(1) Schedule 5 (other contractual terms) is amended as follows—
- (2) In paragraph 45(3) and (4) for “an independent nurse prescriber or a pharmacist independent prescriber” substitute “an independent prescriber or a supplementary prescriber” at each place where it occurs;
 - (3) For the heading of paragraph 60, substitute “Independent prescribers and supplementary prescribers”; and
 - (4) In paragraph 60(1) and (2) for “an independent nurse prescriber, a pharmacist independent prescriber or a supplementary prescriber” substitute “an independent prescriber or a supplementary prescriber” at each place where it occurs.

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

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health on 24th March 2022



Dr Naresh Chada
A senior officer of the Department of Health

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance on 24th March 2022



Barry Armstrong
A senior officer of the Department of Finance

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 (“the principal Regulations”) to reflect changes to the arrangements for independent prescribing by chiropodists and podiatrists, optometrists, paramedics, physiotherapists and therapeutic radiographers. There will be new categories of prescribers known as Chiropodist or Podiatrist Independent Prescriber, Optometrist Independent Prescriber, Paramedic Independent Prescriber, Physiotherapist Independent Prescriber and Therapeutic Radiographer Independent Prescriber. These Regulations insert definitions of the new categories of independent prescriber and a definition of independent prescriber into the principal Regulations. They also amend the definition of supplementary prescriber to include dietitians and paramedics.