

## **EXECUTIVE NOTE**

### **The National Health Services (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 3) Regulations 2005 SSI/2005/617**

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred on Scottish Ministers by sections 27(2), 69(1) and (2), 105(7) and 108(1) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978. The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

It is anticipated that further amendment of the primary regulations, made in 2001, will be required by April 2006. Consolidated regulations will be put forward at that time.

#### **Policy Objectives**

The policy objective is to help patients with chronic medical conditions who need to obtain a repeat supply of their long term medication at a weekend or over a public holiday, when they are unable to get a repeat prescription from their GP surgery.

The purpose of this instrument is to provide for health charges to be levied in respect of repeat medicines supplied to patients who are unable to contact their medical practitioners to obtain a repeat prescription. The charges will be levied on a per item basis and the cost to the patient will be the same as the amount payable in respect of prescribed items. In addition, the instrument provides that patients who are exempt from payment of prescription charges shall also be exempt from payment of charges in respect of repeat medicines supplied under these arrangements.

NHS community pharmacists will implement these arrangements under the terms of a Patient Group Direction made under Article 12C of the Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Order 1997 (exemption for persons conducting a retail pharmacy business who supply or administer prescription only medicines under a Patient Group Direction).

#### **Consultation**

There has been no formal, public consultation during the preparation of the instrument.

#### **Financial Effects**

This instrument carries no financial implications for the Scottish Executive or NHSScotland. Although repeat medicines supplied under the new arrangements will reach patients by a new supply route, each patient will receive no more medicine than they would have obtained on a GP prescription.

Scottish Executive Health Department  
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