

## **EXECUTIVE NOTE**

### **THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (FREE PRESCRIPTIONS AND CHARGES FOR DRUGS AND APPLIANCES) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2012**

**SSI 2012/74**

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred on Scottish Ministers by sections 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.

#### **Policy Objectives**

The Scottish Government abolished prescription charges in Scotland on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 however maintained the current practice of charging the rate in England where a prescription is presented for dispensing in Scotland on an English prescription form (unless the patient is ordinarily resident in Scotland and holds an entitlement card issued by a Health Board, in which case no charge will be made).

These regulation amendments increase the amount to be charged in respect of an English prescription in line with arrangements in England. The existing exemption criteria arrangements remain ensuring current reciprocal arrangements can continue whereby exempt patients presenting Scottish prescription forms in England can collect their medication free of charge and vice versa.

#### **Financial Effects**

There is no financial effect associated with these amendment regulations.

Scottish Government  
Health & Health Care Improvement  
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