

POLICY NOTE

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (PHYSIOTHERAPIST, PODIATRIST OR CHIROPODIST INDEPENDENT PRESCRIBERS) (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2014

SSI 2014/73

1. The above instrument will be made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 17E(1), 17N(1) and 27(1) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 and all other powers enabling them to do so.

Policy Objectives

2. The purpose of these Regulations is to amend the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (“the 2004 Regulations”), the National Health Service (Primary Medical Services Section 17C Agreements) (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (“the Section 17C Regulations”) and the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (“the 2009 Regulations”), to recognise physiotherapist independent prescribers and podiatrist or chiropodist independent prescribers.
3. In addition, Regulation 10 amends paragraph 4(2)(c)(i)(bb) of Schedule 1 to the 2009 Regulations to increase the period for which drugs, medicines or listed appliances under a serial prescription can be ordered from 48 to 56 weeks.
4. The introduction of Physiotherapist and Podiatrist/Chiropodist Independent Prescribing is designed to:
 - improve the quality of service to patients without compromising patient safety;
 - make it easier for patients to get the medicines they need;
 - increase patient choice;
 - make better use of the skills of healthcare professionals; and
 - contribute to the introduction of more flexible team working across the NHS.
5. The amendment to the length of a serial prescription brings into line the length of a script with the prescribing period for the Chronic Medication Services (CMS).

Consultation

6. A UK wide consultation on proposals for independent prescribing by physiotherapists and podiatrists/chiropodists was undertaken in 2011. The vast majority of respondents supported independent prescribing. The consultation also made clear that while changes to primary legislation would apply across the UK, the Scottish Government would have to ensure that appropriate amendments were in place to allow physiotherapist and podiatrists/chiropodists to prescribe in Scotland.

Impact Assessments

7. An equality impact assessment (EQIA) has not been completed on the NHS (physiotherapist independent prescribers and podiatrist/chiropracist independent prescribers) Regulations 2014. Please see the EQIA Declaration at Annex A.
8. A business and regulatory impact assessment (BRIA) has not been completed as there is no financial impact on third parties or small business

Financial Effects

9. None

Scottish Government
Finance, eHealth & Pharmaceuticals Directorate.