



Patents Act 1977

1977 CHAPTER 37

PART I

NEW DOMESTIC LAW

Patentability

[^{F1}4A Methods of treatment or diagnosis

- (1) A patent shall not be granted for the invention of—
 - (a) a method of treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy, or
 - (b) a method of diagnosis practised on the human or animal body.
- (2) Subsection (1) above does not apply to an invention consisting of a substance or composition for use in any such method.
- (3) In the case of an invention consisting of a substance or composition for use in any such method, the fact that the substance or composition forms part of the state of the art shall not prevent the invention from being taken to be new if the use of the substance or composition in any such method does not form part of the state of the art.
- (4) In the case of an invention consisting of a substance or composition for a specific use in any such method, the fact that the substance or composition forms part of the state of the art shall not prevent the invention from being taken to be new if that specific use does not form part of the state of the art.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 4A inserted (13.12.2007) by [Patents Act 2004 \(c. 16\)](#), [ss. 1, 17\(1\)](#); [S.I. 2007/3396](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

Patents Act 1977, Section 4A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 56(4)(a)(iiia) and word added by [S.I. 2006/1056 Sch. para. 2\(b\)](#) (This amendment comes into force on the day on which 2005 asp 13, s. 20 comes into force, see art. 1(2)(b))
- s. 63(3)(a) words in s. 63(3) renumbered as s. 63(3)(a) by [2004 c. 16 s. 2\(4\)](#) (Amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 2(4) was repealed (29.4.2006) by S.I. 2006/1028, art. 2(4), Sch. 4)
- s. 63(3)(b) and word inserted by [2004 c. 16 s. 2\(4\)](#) (Amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 2(4) was repealed (29.4.2006) by S.I. 2006/1028, art. 2(4), Sch. 4)