

*Status: Point in time view as at 26/03/2008. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.
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Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008

2008 CHAPTER 2

N.I.

An Act to amend the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 in relation to the provision of health care; and for connected purposes. [25th February 2008]

BE IT ENACTED by being passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and assented to by Her Majesty as follows:

Primary medical services

Persons performing primary medical services: listing subject to conditions **N.I.**

1.—(1) Article 57G of the Order of 1972 (persons performing primary medical services) shall be amended as follows.

(2) In paragraph (1) for “by the Health and Social Services Board” substitute “by a Health and Social Services Board”.

(3) After paragraph (3) insert—

“(3A) Regulations under paragraph (1) may, in particular, also provide for—

(a) a person's inclusion or continued inclusion in a list to be subject to conditions determined by a Health and Social Services Board;

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- (b) a Board to vary the conditions or impose different ones;
 - (c) the consequences of failing to comply with a condition (including removal from a list);
 - (d) the review by a Board of decisions made by it by virtue of the regulations.
- (3B) The imposition of such conditions may be with a view to—
- (a) preventing any prejudice to the efficiency of the services to which the list relates, or
 - (b) preventing fraud.”.

PROSPECTIVE

Dental services

Provision of dental services **N.I.**

2.—(1) After Article 60 of the Order of 1972 (prohibition of sale of, etc. medical practices), omit the cross-heading “General Dental Services, General Ophthalmic Services and Pharmaceutical Services” and insert—

“Primary dental services

Primary dental services

60A.—(1) [^{F1}The Department] shall, to the extent that it considers necessary to meet all reasonable requirements, ^{F2}... provide primary dental services ^{F3}..., or secure their provision ^{F3}....

(2) [^{F4}The Department] may (in addition to any other power conferred on it)—

- (a) provide primary dental services itself ^{F5}...;
- (b) make such arrangements for their provision ^{F5}... as it thinks fit, and may in particular make contractual arrangements with any person.

(3) [^{F6}The Department] shall publish information about such matters as may be prescribed in relation to the primary dental services provided under this Part.

^{F7}(4)

(5) Regulations may provide that services of a prescribed description are, or are not, to be regarded as primary dental services for the purposes of this Part.

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(6) Regulations under this Article may in particular describe services by reference to the manner or circumstances in which they are provided.”.

(2) For Article 61 of the Order of 1972 (arrangements for general dental services) substitute—

“General dental services contracts

General dental services contracts: introductory

61.—(1) [^{F8}The Department] may enter into a contract under which primary dental services are provided in accordance with the following provisions of this Part.

(2) A contract under this Article is called in this Order a “general dental services contract”.

(3) Subject to any provision made by or under this Part, a general dental services contract may make such provision as may be agreed between [^{F9}the Department] and the contractor or contractors in relation to—

- (a) the services to be provided under the contract,
- (b) remuneration under the contract, and
- (c) any other matters.

(4) The services to be provided under a general dental services contract may include—

- (a) services which are not primary dental services;
- ^{F10}(b)

(5) In this Part, “contractor”, in relation to a general dental services contract, means any person entering into the contract with [^{F9}the Department]

Requirement to provide certain primary dental

61A.—(1) A general dental services contract shall require the contractor or contractors to provide, for his or their patients, primary dental services of such descriptions as may be prescribed.

(2) Regulations under paragraph (1) may in particular prescribe services by reference to the manner or circumstances in which they are provided.

Persons eligible to enter into general dental services contracts

61B.—(1) [^{F11}The Department] may, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, enter into a general dental services contract with—

- (a) a dental practitioner;

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(b) a dental corporation;

(c) two or more individuals practising in partnership where the conditions in paragraph (2) are satisfied.

(2) The conditions referred to in paragraph (1)(c) in relation to a partnership are that—

(a) at least one partner is a dental practitioner; and

(b) any partner who is not a dental practitioner is either—

(i) an ^{F12}HSC employee];

(ii) an Article 15B employee, a section 28C employee or a section 17C employee;

(iii) a health care professional who is engaged in the provision of services under this Order; or

(iv) an individual falling within Article 15C(1)(c)(iii).

(3) Regulations may make provision as to the effect, in relation to a general dental services contract entered into by individuals practising in partnership, of a change in the membership of the partnership.

(4) In this Article—

“dental corporation” means a body corporate which, in accordance with the provisions of Part IV of the Dentists Act 1984, is entitled to carry on the business of dentistry;

“health care professional” has the same meaning as in Article 15C;

“^{F12}HSC employee]”, “Article 15B employee”, “section 28C employee” and “section 17C employee” have the same meaning as in Article 15C.

General dental services contracts: payments

61C.—(1) The Department may ^{F13}make a scheme providing for] payments to be made under general dental services contracts.

(2) A general dental services contract must require payments to be made under the contract in accordance with ^{F14}any scheme] for the time being in force under this Article.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of the power under paragraph (1) ^{F15}a scheme] under that paragraph may—

(a) provide for payments to be made by reference to compliance with standards or the achievement of levels of performance;

(b) provide for payments to be made by reference to—

(i) ^{F16}any method of calculation] or scale specified in the ^{F17}scheme] ; or

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- (ii) a determination made by any person in accordance with factors specified in the [F17scheme] ;
 - (c) provide for the making of payments in respect of individual practitioners;
 - (d) provide that the whole or any part of a payment is subject to conditions (and may provide that payments are payable by [F18the Department] only if it is satisfied as to certain conditions);
 - (e) make provision having effect from a date before the date of the [F17scheme] , provided that, having regard to the [F17scheme] as a whole, the provision is not detrimental to the persons to whose remuneration it relates.
- (4) Before [F19making a scheme] under paragraph (1), the Department—
- (a) shall consult any body appearing to it to be representative of persons to whose remuneration the [F20scheme] would relate, and
 - (b) may consult such other persons as it thinks appropriate.
- [F21(4A) The Department must publish a scheme under paragraph (1) in such manner as it thinks appropriate.]
- (5) References in this Article to payments include fees, allowances, reimbursements, loans and repayments.

General dental services contracts: other required terms

- 61D.**—(1) A general dental services contract shall contain such provision as may be prescribed (in addition to the provision required by the preceding provisions of this Part).
- (2) Regulations under paragraph (1) may in particular make provision as to—
- (a) the manner in which, and standards to which, services are to be provided;
 - (b) the persons who perform services;
 - (c) the persons to whom services are to be provided;
 - (d) the variation of contract terms (other than terms required by or under this Part);
 - (e) rights of entry and inspection (including inspection of clinical records and other documents);
 - (f) the circumstances in which, and the manner in which, the contract may be terminated;
 - (g) enforcement;
 - (h) the adjudication of disputes.

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(3) Regulations under paragraph (2)(d) may make provision as to the circumstances in which [^{F22}the Department] may impose a variation of contract terms.

(4) Regulations under paragraph (1) shall make provision as to the right of patients to choose the persons from whom they are to receive services.

General dental services contracts: disputes and enforcement

61E.—(1) Regulations may make provision for the resolution of disputes as to the terms of a proposed general dental services contract.

(2) Regulations under paragraph (1) [^{F23}in particular] may make provision—

- (a) for the referral of the terms of the proposed contract to [^{F24}a prescribed body] ; and
- (b) for [^{F25}that body] to determine the terms on which the contract may be entered into.

[^{F26}(2A) Regulations making provision as to the matters referred to in paragraph (2)(a) and (b) may make provision—

- (a) as to the members of the body, including the terms and conditions of their appointment;
- (b) for the payment of fees and allowances to members of the body.]

(3) Regulations may make provision for a person or persons entering into a general dental services contract to be regarded as a health and [^{F27}social care] body for any purposes of Article 8 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, in circumstances where he or they so elect.

(4) Regulations under paragraph (3) may include provision as to the application of Article 8 of that Order in cases where—

- (a) persons practising in partnership elect to become a health and [^{F27}social care] body; and
- (b) there is a change in the membership of the partnership.

(5) Where—

- (a) by virtue of regulations under paragraph (3), paragraph (8) of Article 8 of that Order applies in relation to a general dental services contract, and
- (b) a direction as to payments is made under that paragraph in relation to the contract,

the direction is to be enforceable in a county court (if the court so orders) as if it were a judgment or order of that court.”

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^{F28}“Persons performing primary dental services”]

^{F29}Persons performing primary dental services]

61F.—^{F30}(1) Regulations may provide that a health care professional of a prescribed description may not perform any primary dental service for which ^{F31}the Department] is responsible unless that professional is included in a list maintained under the regulations by the Regional Board.]

(2) For the purposes of this Article—

(a) “health care professional” has the same meaning as in Article 15C;

^{F32}(b) ^{F31}the Department] is responsible for a primary dental service if it provides the service, or secures provision of the service, under or by virtue of Article 60A.]

(3) Paragraphs (3), (3A) ^{F33}and (3B)] of Article 57G shall apply for the purposes of regulations made under paragraph (1) above in the same manner as those paragraphs apply for the purposes of regulations made under paragraph (1) of that Article.”.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 2(1) substituted (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\), s. 8\(1\)\(b\), Sch. 1 para. 217\(2\)\(a\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F2** Words in s. 2(1) omitted (1.4.2022) by virtue of [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\), s. 8\(1\)\(b\), Sch. 1 para. 217\(2\)\(b\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F3** Words in s. 2(1) omitted (1.4.2022) by virtue of [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\), s. 8\(1\)\(b\), Sch. 1 para. 217\(2\)\(c\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F4** Words in s. 2(1) substituted (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\), s. 8\(1\)\(b\), Sch. 1 para. 217\(3\)\(a\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F5** Words in s. 2(1) omitted (1.4.2022) by virtue of [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\), s. 8\(1\)\(b\), Sch. 1 para. 217\(3\)\(b\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F6** Words in s. 2(1) substituted (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\), s. 8\(1\)\(b\), Sch. 1 para. 217\(4\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F7** Words in s. 2(1) omitted (1.4.2022) by virtue of [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\), s. 8\(1\)\(b\), Sch. 1 para. 217\(5\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F8** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\), s. 8\(1\)\(b\), Sch. 1 para. 218\(2\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F9** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\), s. 8\(1\)\(b\), Sch. 1 para. 218\(3\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F10** Words in s. 2(2) omitted (1.4.2022) by virtue of [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\), s. 8\(1\)\(b\), Sch. 1 para. 218\(4\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F11** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\), s. 8\(1\)\(b\), Sch. 1 para. 219](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)

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Act (Northern Ireland) 2008*

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- F12** Words in Act substituted (1.4.2009) by Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 (c. 1), ss. 32, 34(3), **Sch. 6 para. 1(1)(f)** (with Sch. 6 para. 1(3)); S.R. 2009/114, **art. 2**
- F13** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 220(2)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F14** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 220(3)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F15** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 220(4)(a)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F16** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 220(4)(c)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F17** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 220(4)(b)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F18** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 220(4)(d)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F19** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 220(5)(a)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F20** Word in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 220(5)(b)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F21** Words in s. 2(2) inserted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 220(6)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F22** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 221**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F23** Words in s. 2(2) inserted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 222(2)(a)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F24** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 222(2)(b)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F25** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 222(2)(c)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F26** Words in s. 2(2) inserted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 222(3)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F27** Words in Act substituted (1.4.2009) by Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 (c. 1), ss. 32, 34(3), **Sch. 6 para. 1(1)(a)** (with Sch. 6 para. 1(2)(3)); S.R. 2009/114, **art. 2**
- F28** Words in s. 2(2) inserted (13.6.2016) by Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 26), **ss. 9(2)**, 20
- F29** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (13.6.2016) by Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 26), **ss. 9(3)(a)**, 20
- F30** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (13.6.2016) by Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 26), **ss. 9(3)(b)**, 20
- F31** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 223(2)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)
- F32** Words in s. 2(2) substituted (13.6.2016) by Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 26), **ss. 9(3)(c)**, 20

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F33 Words in s. 2(2) substituted (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 8(1)(b), [Sch. 1 para. 223\(3\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)

General dental services: transitional **N.I.**

3.—(1) The Department shall by order make transitional provision in respect of persons who, immediately before the coming into operation of section 2, are providing services under Article 61 of the Order of 1972 (general dental services).

(2) An order under this section may provide that, in such circumstances as the order may prescribe, [^{F34}the Department] shall, if any such person so wishes, enter into a general dental services contract with that person; and the order may make provision as to the terms of any such contract.

(3) An order under this section may provide that, in such circumstances as the order may prescribe, [^{F34}the Department] shall, if any such person so wishes, enter into a contract with that person, containing such terms as the order may specify, for the provision of dental services.

(4) An order under this section may make provision for the resolution of disputes in relation to any contract entered into, or proposed to be entered into, under subsection (2) or (3), including provision for the determination of disputes by [^{F35}a body specified in the order.]

[^{F36}(4A) An order specifying a body for the purposes of subsection (4) may make provision—

- (a) as to the members of the body, including the terms and conditions of their appointment;
- (b) for the payment of fees and allowances to members of the body.]

(5) An order under this section may make provision in respect of a period beginning before the coming into operation of the provision (or of section 2), provided that the provision is not as a whole detrimental to the remuneration of the persons to whom it relates.

(6) In this section “general dental services contract” means a contract under Article 61 of the Order of 1972 (as inserted by section 2).

(7) An order made under this section shall be subject to negative resolution.

Textual Amendments

F34 Words in s. 3 substituted (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 8(1)(b), [Sch. 1 para. 224\(a\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)

F35 Words in s. 3(4) substituted (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 8(1)(b), [Sch. 1 para. 224\(b\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)

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F36 S. 3(4A) inserted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 224(c)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)

Charges for dental services **N.I.**

4.—(1) In Article 98 of the Order of 1972 (services free of charge), after paragraph (2) add—

“(3) Schedule 15A, which makes provisions with respect to exemptions from dental charges under paragraph 1A of Schedule 15, shall have effect.”.

(2) In Schedule 15 to the Order of 1972 (charges in respect of certain services), for paragraph (1A) substitute—

“**1A.**—(1) Regulations may provide for the making and recovery, in such manner as may be prescribed, of charges for relevant dental services.

(2) Regulations under sub-paragraph (1) may in particular include provision—

- (a) specifying the amount, or maximum amount, of any charge (or aggregate charge in respect of the provision for two or more relevant dental services);
- (b) for calculating the amount of any charge;
- (c) for the variation of the amount, or maximum amount, of any charge in cases of a prescribed description;
- (d) for any charge not to be payable in cases of a prescribed description;
- (e) for power to direct that a charge is not payable in any particular case;
- (f) for the repayment of any charge (including provision as to the persons by whom, and manner in which, repayments are to be made).

(3) Regulations under sub-paragraph (1) may provide for sums which would otherwise be payable by a Health and Social Services Board to persons providing relevant dental services to be reduced by the amount of the charges authorised by the regulations.

(4) This paragraph is subject to Schedule 15A.

(5) In this Schedule and Schedule 15A “relevant dental services” means—

- (a) dental treatment provided—
 - (i) under Article 60A(2) (dental services provided by a Health and Social Services Board);
 - (ii) under a general dental services contract;
 - (iii) in accordance with Article 15B arrangements; and
- (b) the supply of dentures and other dental appliances under this Order.

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(6) Any reference in this paragraph or Schedule 15A to the supply of an appliance includes a reference to its repair, adjustment, refitting or replacement and, in the case of dentures, to their being relined or having additions made to them.”.

(3) After Schedule 15 to that Order insert—

“SCHEDULE
15A **N.I.**

DENTAL CHARGING: EXEMPTIONS

General exemptions

1.—(1) No charge is to be made under regulations under paragraph 1A(1) of Schedule 15 in respect of a relevant dental service provided for any person who at the prescribed time—

- (a) was under the age of 18;
- (b) was under the age of 19 and receiving qualifying full-time education;
- (c) was pregnant; or
- (d) had given birth to a child within the previous 12 months.

(2) In sub-paragraph (1)(b), “qualifying full-time education” means full-time instruction at a recognised educational establishment or by other means accepted as comparable by the person or body making the regulations.

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2)—

- (a) “recognised educational establishment” means an establishment recognised by the Department as being, or as comparable to, a school, college or university; and
- (b) regulations may prescribe the circumstances in which a person is or is not to be treated as receiving full-time instruction.

(4) In sub-paragraph (1)(d), “child” includes a still-born child (within the meaning of the Births and Deaths Registration (Northern Ireland) Order 1976).

(5) This paragraph is subject to paragraph 3.

Repair and replacement

2.—(1) No charge is to be made under regulations under paragraph 1A(1) of Schedule 15 in respect of the repair or replacement of any appliance.

(2) This paragraph is subject to paragraph 3.

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Exceptions to paragraphs 1 and 2

3 Paragraphs 1 and 2 do not apply in relation to—

- (a) the repair or replacement of any appliance of a prescribed description; or
- (b) the repair or replacement of any appliance where it is determined in the prescribed manner—
 - (i) in any case, that the repair or replacement was necessitated by an act or omission of the person supplied; or
 - (ii) in a case where the person supplied was under the age of 16, that the repair or replacement was necessitated by an act or omission, occurring while that person was under that age, of a person having charge of him.

Hospital patients

4 No charge is to be made under regulations under paragraph 1A(1) of Schedule 15 in respect of any appliance supplied to a patient for the time being resident in a hospital.

5 Paragraph 4 does not apply where an appliance is supplied—

- (a) under Article 60A(2);
- (b) under a general dental services contract; or
- (c) in accordance with Article 15B arrangements.

Arrest of bleeding

6 No charge is to be made under regulations under paragraph 1A(1) of Schedule 15 in respect of the arrest of bleeding.

Declarations and evidence

7 Regulations may provide, with respect to any exemption under this Schedule, that it is to be a condition of the exemption that—

- (a) a declaration of the prescribed kind is made in the prescribed form and manner; or
- (b) a certificate or other evidence of the prescribed kind is supplied in the prescribed form and manner.”.

(4) In Article 107 of the Order of 1972 (orders, regulations and directions)—

- (a) in paragraph (1), after “and” (second time) insert “ , except as provided in paragraph (1A), ”;
- (b) after paragraph (1) insert—

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“(1A) The Department may not make a statutory rule containing the first regulations made under paragraph 1A(1) of Schedule 15 unless a draft of the regulations has been laid before, and approved by resolution of, the Assembly.”

(5) Article 26 of the Health Services (Primary Care) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (NI 7) is repealed.

(6) In respect of any period after the coming into operation of this section but before the coming into operation of section 6, paragraph 1A(5)(b) of Schedule 15 to the Order of 1972 (as inserted by subsection (2) above) shall have effect as if it included a reference to the supply of dentures and other dental appliances in accordance with a pilot scheme under Part II of the Health Services (Primary Care) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (NI 7).

Provision of dental services: Article 15B arrangements **N.I.**

5.—(1) The Order of 1972 shall be amended as follows.

(2) In Article 15B (provision for primary medical services and personal dental services)—

- (a) in the cross-heading and heading that precede the Article, for “personal dental services” substitute “primary dental services”;
- (b) in paragraphs (1)(b), (2)(a) and (b)(i) and (4), for “personal dental services”, in each place where those words occur, substitute “primary dental services”;
- (c) omit paragraphs (3) and (6).

(3) In Article 15C (persons with whom arrangements under Article 15B may be made), for sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph (1) substitute—

“(c) in the case of an agreement under which primary dental services are provided—

- (i) a dental practitioner who satisfies the prescribed conditions;
- (ii) a health care professional who satisfies the prescribed conditions;

[^{F37}(iii) an individual who is providing services—

- (A) under a general dental services contract or a general medical services contract;
- (B) in accordance with Article 15B arrangements, section 92 arrangements, section 107 arrangements, section 50 arrangements, section 64 arrangements or section 17C arrangements; or
- (C) under section 17J or 25 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978, section 84 or 100 of the National

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Health Service Act 2006 or section 42 or 57 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006;

or has so provided them within such period as may be prescribed;”].

(4) In paragraph (1A) of that Article, for the words from “or” to “sub-paragraph (d),” substitute “ (c)(iii) or (d) ”.

(5) In paragraph (2) of that Article—

(a) in the definition of “[^{F38}HSC employee]”—

(i) in paragraph (bb), after “contract” insert “ or a general dental services contract ”, and

(ii) omit paragraph (c);

(b) omit the definition of “qualifying dental practitioner”.

(6) In Article 15D (regulations concerning Article 15B arrangements)—

(a) in the heading, for “personal dental services”, substitute “ primary dental services ”; and

(b) in paragraph (2), omit sub-paragraph (b) and the definition of “practitioner”.

(7) In paragraphs (3)(ca) and (3E) of that Article, after “services” insert “ or primary dental services ”.

(8) In paragraph (3C) of that Article, after “contract” insert “ or a general dental services contract ”.

(9) In paragraph (6) of that Article—

(a) for “personal dental services” substitute “ primary dental services ”, and

(b) omit the words from “(whether” to “otherwise)”.

(10) Article 15F (right to choose dental practitioner) shall cease to have effect.

Textual Amendments

F37 Words in s. 5(3) substituted (13.6.2016) by [Health \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016 \(c. 26\)](#), **ss. 13(5)**, 20

F38 Words in Act substituted (1.4.2009) by [Health and Social Care \(Reform\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2009 \(c. 1\)](#), **ss. 32, 34(3)**, **Sch. 6 para. 1(1)(f)** (with [Sch. 6 para. 1\(3\)](#)); [S.R. 2009/114](#), **art. 2**

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Revocation of power to make pilot schemes for provision of personal dental services **N.I.**

6 The power of [^{F39}the Department] under Part II of the Health Services (Primary Care) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (NI 7) to make pilot schemes for the provision of personal dental services shall cease to have effect.

Textual Amendments

F39 Words in s. 6 substituted (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 8(1)(b), [Sch. 1 para. 225](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)

Assistance and support for persons providing primary dental services **N.I.**

7 In Article 57H(1) of the Order of 1972 (assistance and support), for sub-paragraph (a) substitute—

- “(a) any person providing, or proposing to provide, primary medical services or primary dental services under a general medical services contract or a general dental services contract;”.

Ophthalmic services

Ophthalmic services **N.I.**

8.—(1) Immediately before Article 62 of the Order of 1972 (arrangements for general ophthalmic services), insert the cross-heading— “ Ophthalmic services ”.

(2) In paragraph (2) of that Article, sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) shall cease to have effect.

(3) After that Article, insert—

“Persons providing general ophthalmic

62A.—(1) Regulations may provide that a health care professional of a prescribed description may not provide any general ophthalmic services for which a Health and Social Services Board is responsible unless that professional is included in a list maintained under the regulations by a Health and Social Services Board.

(2) For the purposes of this Article—

- (a) “health care professional” has the same meaning as in Article 15C;
- (b) a Health and Social Services Board is responsible for general ophthalmic services if it secures provision of the services under or by virtue of Article 62.

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(3) Paragraphs (3), (3A), (3B) and (4) of Article 57G shall apply for the purposes of regulations made under this Article in the same manner as those paragraphs apply for the purposes of regulations made under paragraph (1) of that Article.”.

Local optical committees **N.I.**

9 In Article 55 of the Order of 1972 (recognition of local representative committees), in paragraph (3)(a) after the word “the” insert “ ophthalmic medical practitioners and ”.

Pharmaceutical services

Pharmaceutical services **N.I.**

10.—(1) Immediately before Article 63 of the Order of 1972 (arrangements for pharmaceutical services) insert the cross-heading— “ Pharmaceutical services ”.

(2) Paragraphs (2A) to (2D) of that Article shall cease to have effect.

(3) After that Article insert—

“Persons providing pharmaceutical

63AA.—(1) Regulations may provide that a health care professional of a prescribed description may not provide any pharmaceutical services for which a Health and Social Services Board is responsible unless that professional is included in a list maintained under the regulations by a Health and Social Services Board.

(2) Regulations under paragraph (1) shall include provision—

(a) that an application to a Health and Social Services Board for inclusion in such a list shall be made in the prescribed manner and shall state—

(i) the pharmaceutical services which the applicant will undertake to provide and, if they consist of or include the supply of appliances, which appliances he will undertake to supply; and

(ii) the premises from which he will undertake to provide those pharmaceutical services;

(b) that, except in prescribed cases—

(i) an application for inclusion in such a list by a person not already included; and

(ii) an application by a person already included in such a list for inclusion also in respect of pharmaceutical services or premises other than those already listed in relation to him,

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- shall be granted only if the Health and Social Services Board is satisfied, in accordance with the regulations, that it is necessary or desirable to grant it in order to secure in the neighbourhood in which the premises are located the adequate provision by persons included in the list of the pharmaceutical services or some of the pharmaceutical services, specified in the application; and
- (c) for the removal of an entry in respect of premises from a list if it has been determined in the prescribed manner that the person to whom the entry relates—
- (i) has never provided from those premises, or
 - (ii) has ceased to provide from them,
- the pharmaceutical services, or any of the pharmaceutical services, which he is listed as undertaking to provide from them.
- (3) Regulations under paragraph (1) may include provision—
- (a) that an application to a Health and Social Services Board may be granted in respect of some only of the pharmaceutical services specified in it;
 - (b) that an application to a Health and Social Services Board relating to pharmaceutical services of a prescribed description shall be granted only if it appears to the Board that the applicant has satisfied such conditions with regard to the provision of those pharmaceutical services as may be prescribed;
 - (c) that an application to a Health and Social Services Board by a person who qualified to have his name registered under the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 by virtue of Article 8(2)(c) of that Order (qualification by European diploma) shall not be granted unless the applicant satisfies the Board that he has the knowledge of English which, in the interests of himself and the persons making use of the pharmaceutical services to which the application relates, is necessary for the provision of pharmaceutical services in the Board's area;
 - (d) that the inclusion of a person in a list in pursuance of such an application may be for a fixed period;
 - (e) that, where the premises from which an application states that the applicant will undertake to provide pharmaceutical services are in an area of a prescribed description, the applicant shall not be included in the list unless his inclusion is approved by a prescribed body and by reference to prescribed criteria; and
 - (f) that the prescribed body may give its approval subject to conditions.
- (4) For the purposes of this Article—

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- (a) “health care professional” has the same meaning as in Article 15C;
- (b) a Health and Social Services Board is responsible for pharmaceutical services if it secures provision of the services, under or by virtue of Article 63 or 63A.

(5) Paragraphs (3), (3A), (3B) and (4) of Article 57G apply for the purposes of regulations made under this Article in the same manner as those paragraphs apply for the purposes of regulations made under paragraph (1) of that Article.”.

The Tribunal

Disqualification by the Tribunal **N.I.**

11 Schedule 1 amends Schedule 11 to the Order of 1972 (disqualification of persons providing Part 6 services).

Other amendments relating to health services

Charges for services provided to persons not ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland **N.I.**

12 In Article 42 of the Order of 1972 (provision of services to persons not ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland)—

- (a) in paragraph (2), for “such exemptions as may be prescribed” substitute “paragraph (3)”; and
- (b) after that paragraph add—
 - “(3) Regulations may provide that charges under paragraph (2) are only to be made in such cases as may be determined in accordance with the regulations.”.

Retirement of practitioners **N.I.**

13 Article 4 of the Health and Medicines (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 (NI 24) (retirement of practitioners) shall cease to have effect.

Minor and consequential amendments **N.I.**

14.—(1) The following minor and consequential amendments of the Order of 1972 shall have effect.

(2) In Article 2(2) (interpretation), at the appropriate place alphabetically, insert—

““general dental services contract” has the meaning given in Article 61(2);”.

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(3) In Article 15C(1)(b)(iii) (persons with whom arrangements under Article 15B may be made), for “Article 17C” substitute “ section 17C ”.

(4) In Schedule 15 (charges in respect of certain services), in paragraph 1(a)—

(a) in paragraph (i), for “general” substitute “ relevant ”, and

(b) in paragraphs (ii) and (iii) for “charges under Article 61(2)(d)” substitute “ charges for relevant dental services ”.

Commencement Information

II S. 14 partly in force, s. 14(4) in force at 26.3.2008, see s. 18(1)(a)

Supplementary

Interpretation **N.I.**

15 In this Act—

“the Department” means the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety;

“the Order of 1972” means the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 (NI 14).

Supplementary provision **N.I.**

16.—(1) The Department may by order make such transitional or transitory provisions and savings as it considers appropriate in connection with the coming into operation of any provision of this Act.

(2) Nothing in section 3 restricts the power under subsection (1) to make other transitional provisions.

(3) The Department may by order make such supplementary, incidental, or consequential provision as it considers appropriate for the purposes of, in consequence of or for giving full effect to any provision of this Act.

(4) An order under subsection (1) or (3) may modify any statutory provision.

(5) In subsection (4)—

“modify” includes add to, omit and amend; and

“statutory provision” has the meaning given in section 1(1)(f) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (c. 33).

(6) An order made under this section shall be subject to negative resolution.

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Repeals **N.I.**

17 The statutory provisions set out in Schedule 2 are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the second column of that Schedule.

Commencement Information

- 12** S. 17 partly in force, s. 17 in force at 26.3.2008 in so far as it relates to Sch. 2 Pt. I, see s. 18(1)(c)

Commencement **N.I.**

18.—(1) The following provisions come into operation on the expiration of the period of one month from the date on which this Act receives Royal Assent—

- (a) sections 1, 8 to 13 and 14(4);
- (b) Schedule 1;
- (c) Part 1 of Schedule 2, and section 17 so far as it relates thereto.

(2) The following provisions come into operation on such day or days as the Department may by order appoint—

- (a) sections 2 to 7 and 14(1) to (3);
- (b) Part 2 of Schedule 2, and section 17 so far as it relates thereto.

Short title **N.I.**

19 This Act may be cited as the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 **N.I.**

Section 11.

AMENDMENTS OF SCHEDULE 11 TO THE 1972 ORDER

- 1.—(1) Paragraph 1 (general provisions) shall be amended as follows.
- (2) For paragraph 1(2), substitute—
- “(2) If the Tribunal receives from a Health and Social Services Board representations that a person—
- (a) who has applied to be included; or
- (b) who is included,
- in any list meets any of the conditions for disqualification, the Tribunal shall inquire into the case.”.
- (3) In paragraph 1(4)(b), omit “the representations that the second condition for disqualification is met and”.
- (4) In paragraph 1(6)—
- (a) for “continued” substitute “inclusion or continued”;
- (b) for the words from “list” (second time) to the end substitute “list—
- (a) in relation to a list referred to in paragraph (8)(a), (cc) or (e), perform;
- (b) in relation to a list referred to in paragraph (8)(c) or (d), undertake to provide or are approved to assist in providing;”.
- (5) After paragraph 1(7), insert—
- “(7A) The third condition for disqualification is that the person concerned is unsuitable (by virtue of professional or personal conduct) to be included, or to continue to be included in the list.”.
- (6) In paragraph 1(8),—
- (a) omit paragraph (b);
- (b) for paragraphs (c) to (e) substitute—
- “(c) a list of health care professionals of a prescribed description and bodies corporate performing primary dental services;
- (d) a list of medical practitioners and ophthalmic opticians undertaking to provide, and of persons who are approved to assist in providing, general ophthalmic services; or

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(e) a list of registered pharmacists undertaking to provide pharmaceutical services.”.

(7) In paragraph 1(11),—

(a) omit “and”;

(b) at the end insert “ ; and cases in which representations are made that the third condition for disqualification is met are referred to below as unsuitability cases ”

2.—(1) Paragraph 2 (supplementary provisions) shall be amended as follows.

(2) In paragraph 2(1), after “the second condition for disqualification” insert “ or, as the case may be, the third condition for disqualification ”.

(3) After paragraph 2(1), insert—

“(1A) A body corporate entitled, by virtue of section 43 of the Dentists Act 1984 (c. 24), to carry on the business of dentistry is to be treated for the purposes of this Schedule as meeting the second condition for disqualification or, as the case may be, the third condition for disqualification if any director meets that condition (whether or not he first met that condition when he was a director).”.

(4) In paragraph 2(3)—

(a) in paragraph (a), after “providing” insert “ , assisting in providing, or as the case may be performing, ”;

(b) in paragraph (b), after “provision” insert “ , assistance in the provision or performance, ”.

(5) In paragraph 2(5), for “a fraud case” substitute “ an unsuitability case, a fraud case or an inefficiency case ”.

(6) In paragraph 2(6), after “in” insert “ an unsuitability, ”.

3.—(1) Paragraph 3 (powers of the Tribunal) shall be amended as follows.

(2) In paragraph 3(1), after paragraph (b) insert—

“(c) on inquiring into an unsuitability case, that the person meets the third condition for disqualification.”.

(3) For paragraph 3(2), substitute—

“(2) The Tribunal shall disqualify him for inclusion in—

(a) the list to which the case relates;

(b) all lists within the same paragraph of paragraph 1(8) as that list; and

(c) where the list to which the case relates is a list referred to in—

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- (i) paragraph 1(8)(c), all lists within paragraph (cc) of paragraph 1(8);
 - (ii) that paragraph (cc), all lists within that paragraph (c).”.
- (4) In paragraph 3(3), after “provision” insert “ , or as the case may be performance, ”.
- (5) In paragraph 3(4), for “any” substitute “ a ”.
- 4.—**(1) Paragraph 4 (conditional disqualification) shall be amended as follows.
- (2) In paragraph 4(2)—
- (a) at the end of paragraph (a), omit “or”; and
 - (b) after paragraph (b), insert—
 - “(c) ensuring that the person
 - (i) performs, undertakes to provide or assists in providing only services specified (or of a description specified) in the condition;
 - (ii) undertakes an activity (or course of activity) of a personal or professional nature, or refrains from conduct of a personal or professional nature, so specified (or of a description so specified).”.
- (3) In paragraph 4(5), after paragraph (a) insert—
- “(aa) vary any requirements to which the person subject to the inquiry is subject under or by virtue of Article 57G, 61F, 62A or 63AA;”.
- 5** In paragraph 5(4) (construction of references to Health and Social Services Board)—
- (a) after “providing” insert “ , or as the case may be performing, ”;
 - (b) for “any corresponding authority” substitute “ a reference to any authority which ”; and
 - (c) at the end add “ would be entitled to request a review corresponding to that mentioned in that sub-paragraph ”.
- 6.—**(1) Paragraph 7 (disqualification provisions in Scotland or England and Wales) shall be amended as follows.
- (2) In paragraph 7(1), for the words from the beginning to “question,” substitute—
- “Where—
- (a) under or by virtue of any provisions in force in Scotland or England and Wales corresponding to the provisions of this Schedule, a person is disqualified for inclusion in all lists prepared under or by virtue of—

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(i) those provisions so in force, or

(ii) provisions so in force corresponding to the provisions of Part VI of this Order,

of persons performing, undertaking to provide, approved to assist in providing or approved to perform any of the services mentioned in paragraph 1(8), then,

(b) in relation to the service in question,”.

(3) In paragraph 7(2)—

(a) after “provision” (first time) insert “ , assistance in provision or performance ”; and

(b) at the end add “ , Article 15B arrangements or a pilot scheme ”.

7 In paragraph 8(2) (regulations: inquiry into more than one category of case), for “both an efficiency case and a fraud case” substitute “ an efficiency case and a fraud case or an unsuitability case or any other combination of more than one such category of case ”.

8.—(1) Paragraph 9 (applications for interim suspension) shall be amended as follows

(2) In paragraph 9(5)(c), after “provision” insert “ or performance ”.

(3) In paragraph 9(7)(a), after “persons” insert “ performing or ”.

(4) At the end add—

“(8) Regulations may provide that where a Health and Social Services Board, in accordance with regulations made under Article 57G, 61F, 62A or 63AA, suspends a person from a list prepared under regulations made under the provision in question and the Board applies to the Tribunal for a direction to be made under sub-paragraph (2) in relation to the person to whom the suspension applies, the suspension may continue until the Tribunal determines the application.”.

9 For paragraph 12 (suspension provisions in Scotland or England and Wales) substitute—

“12.—(1) This paragraph applies where it appears to the Department that there is provision in Scotland or England or Wales under which a person may be dealt with in any way which corresponds (whether or not exactly) with a way in which a person may be dealt with under a provision of this Schedule.

(2) A decision in Scotland or England or Wales to deal with such a person in such a way is referred to in this paragraph as a “corresponding decision”.

(3) If this paragraph applies, the Department may make regulations providing for the effect to be given in Northern Ireland to a corresponding

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decision; and where the decision corresponds (whether or not exactly) with a decision which may be made under paragraph 4 or (so far as relating to conditional disqualification) paragraph 5 the regulations may provide for the effect to be given to be determined in the prescribed manner by the Department.

(4) That effect need not be the same as the effect of the corresponding decision in the place where it was made.”.

SCHEDULE 2 **N.I.**

Section 17.

REPEALS

PART 1 **N.I.**

REPEALS COMING INTO OPERATION UNDER SECTION 18(1)

Short Title	Extent of repeal
The Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 (NI 14).	Article 62(2)(a) to (c). Article 63(2A) to (2D). In Schedule 11,— (a) in paragraph 1(4)(b), the words “the representations that the second condition for disqualification is met and”; (b) paragraph 1(8)(b) (c) in paragraph 1(11), the word “and”; (d) in paragraph 4(2), the word “or” following paragraph (a).
The Health and Medicines (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 (NI 24).	Article 4.

PROSPECTIVE

PART 2 **N.I.**

REPEALS COMING INTO OPERATION UNDER SECTION 18(2)

Short Title	Extent of repeal
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The Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 (NI 14).

Article 15B(3) and (6).

In Article 15C(2)—

- (a) in the definition of “[^{F40}HSC employee]”, paragraph (c), and
- (b) the definition of “qualifying dental practitioner”.

In Article 15D—

- (a) in paragraph (2)—
 - (i) sub-paragraph (b), and
 - (ii) the definition of “practitioner”;
- (b) in paragraph (6), the words from “(whether” to “otherwise”.

Article 15F.

The Health and Social Services (Primary Care) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (NI 7).

In Article 2—

- (a) in paragraph (3), the definitions of “pilot scheme” and “piloted services”, and
- (b) paragraph (4).

Part 2.

Articles 24 and 26.

Schedule 1.

Textual Amendments

- F40** Words in Act substituted (1.4.2009) by [Health and Social Care \(Reform\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2009](#) (c. 1), ss. 32, 34(3), [Sch. 6 para. 1\(1\)\(f\)](#) (with [Sch. 6 para. 1\(3\)](#)); S.R. 2009/114, [art. 2](#)

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