Medicines Act 1968

CHAPTER 67

MEDICINES ACT 1968

PART I

ADMINISTRATION

1 Ministers responsible for administration of Act.
2 Establishment of Medicines Commission.
2A Establishment of the Commission on Human Medicines
3 Functions of the Commission
4 Establishment of committees.
5 Supplementary provisions as to Commission and committees.

PART II

LICENCES AND CERTIFICATES RELATING TO MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

General provisions and exemptions

6 The licensing authority.
7 General provisions as to dealing with medicinal products.
8 Provisions as to manufacture and wholesale dealing.
9 Exemptions for doctors and dentists
10 Exemptions for pharmacists.
11 Exemption for nurses and midwives.
12 Exemptions in respect of herbal remedies.
13 Exemptions for imports.
14 Exemption for re-exports.
15 Provision for extending or modifying exemptions.
16 Transitional exemptions.
17 Termination of transitional exemptions.
Applications for, and grant and renewal of, licences

18 Application for licence.
19 Factors relevant to determination of application for licence.
20 Grant or refusal of licence.
21 Procedure on reference to appropriate committee
22 Procedure in other cases.
22A Hearing before person appointed
23 Special provisions as to effect of manufacturer’s licence.
24 Duration and renewal of licence.

Licences of right

25 Entitlement to licence of right.
26 Scope of licence of right in different cases.
27 Proceedings on application for licence of right.

Suspension, revocation and variation of licences

28 General power to suspend, revoke or vary licences.
29 Procedure where licensing authority propose to suspend, revoke or vary licence under s. 28.
30 Variation of licence on application of holder.

Clinical trials and medicinal tests on animals

31 Clinical trials.
32 Medicinal tests on animals.
33 Exemptions in respect of medicinal tests on animals.
34 Restrictions as to animals on which medicinal tests have been carried out.
35 Supplementary provisions as to clinical trials and medicinal tests on animals.
36 Application for, and issue of, certificate.
37 Transitional provisions as to clinical trials and medicinal tests on animals.
38 Duration and renewal of certificate.
39 Suspension, revocation or variation of certificate.

Medicated animal feeding stuffs

40 Medicated animal feeding stuffs.
41–42 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Supplementary provisions

43 Extension of s. 7 to certain special circumstances.
44 Provision of information to licensing authority.
45 Offences under Part II.
46 Special defences under s. 45.
47 Standard provisions for licences
48 Postponement of restrictions in relation to exports.
49 Special provisions in respect of exporting certain products.
49A Special provisions in respect of exporting certain products to member States
49B Special provisions in respect of exporting certain products to EEA States

50 Certificates for exporters of medicinal products.

**PART III**

**Further provisions relating to dealings with medicinal products**

**Provisions as to sale or supply of medicinal products**

51 General sale lists.
52 Sale or supply of medicinal products not on general sale list.
53 Sale or supply of medicinal products on general sale list.
54 Sale of medicinal products from automatic machines.

**Exemptions from sections 52 and 53**

55 Exemptions for doctors and dentists etc.
56 Exemptions in respect of herbal remedies.
57 Power to extend or modify exemptions.

**Additional provisions**

58 Medicinal products on prescription only.
58A Requirement to specify certain products as prescription-only products.
58B Requirement to specify certain products for veterinary use as prescription-only products.
59 Special provisions in relation to new medicinal products.
60 Restricted sale, supply and administration of certain medicinal products.
61 Special restrictions on persons to be supplied with medicinal products.
62 Prohibition of sale or supply, or importation, of medicinal products of specified description....
63 Adulteration of medicinal products.
64 Protection of purchasers of medicinal products.
65 Compliance with standards specified in monographs in certain publications.
66 Further powers to regulate dealings with medicinal products.

**Offences, and provision for disqualification**

67 Offences under Part III.
67A Defence to offence of contravening section 63(a) or (b): product not sold or supplied.
67B Defence to offence of contravening section 63(a) or (b): product sold or supplied.
67C Defence to offence of contravening section 64.
67D Defences under sections 67A, 67B and 67C: evidence etc.
67E Sections 67A to 67D: interpretation.
68 Disqualification on conviction of certain offences.

**PART IV**

**Pharmacies**

**Persons lawfully conducting retail pharmacy business**

69 General provisions.
70 Business carried on by individual pharmacist or by partners.
71 Business carried on by body corporate
72 Representative of pharmacist in case of death or disability.
72A The responsible pharmacist
72B Section 72A: supplementary
73 Power to extend or modify conditions.

Registration of pharmacies

74 Meaning of “registered pharmacy”.
74A Registration of premises: Great Britain
74B Conditions for registration: Great Britain
74C Supplementary provision in respect of registration of premises: Great Britain
74D Conditional registration: Great Britain
74E Supplementary provision in respect of conditional registration: Great Britain
74F Giving of notice by registrar: Great Britain
74G Voluntary removal from the register: Great Britain
74H (1) Subject to subsection (2), where a change occurs in...
74I Supplementary provision in respect of change of ownership of retail pharmacy business: Great Britain
74J Temporary registration with regard to emergencies involving loss of human life or human illness etc.
74K Temporary annotations with regard to emergencies involving loss of human life or human illness etc.
74L Evidence of registration: Great Britain
75 Registration of premises: Northern Ireland.
76 Supplementary provisions as to registration of premises: Northern Ireland.
77 Annual return of premises to registrar.

Provisions as to use of certain titles, descriptions and emblems

78 Restrictions on use of titles, descriptions and emblems.
79 Provision for modifying or extending restrictions under s. 78.

Disqualification, and removal of premises from register

80 Power for relevant disciplinary committee to disqualify and direct removal from register.
81 Grounds for disqualification in certain cases.
82 Procedure relating to disqualification.
82A Interim measures
83 Revocation of disqualification.

Supplementary provisions

84 Offences under Part IV.
84A Rules by the General Pharmaceutical Council

PART V
CONTAINERS, PACKAGES AND IDENTIFICATION OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

85 Labelling and marking of containers and packages.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>Leaflets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>Requirements as to containers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>Distinctive colours, shapes and markings of medicinal products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Display of information on automatic machines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Provisions as to medicated animal feeding stuffs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Offences under Part V, and supplementary provisions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PART VI**

**PROMOTION OF SALES OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Scope of Part VI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>False or misleading advertisements and representations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>Advertisements requiring consent of holder of product licence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Powers to regulate advertisements and representations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>Advertisements and representations directed to practitioners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>Power for licensing authority to require copies of advertisements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PART VII**

**BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>British Pharmacopoeia and Other Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>New editions of British Pharmacopoeia, and other compendia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Lists of names.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Other publications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Supplementary provisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Construction of references to specified publications.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PART VIII**

**MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Application of the 2012 Regulations to certain articles and substances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Application of the 2012 Regulations to certain other substances which are not medicinal products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Extension of references to carrying on business.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Validity of decisions and proceedings relating thereto.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Enforcement in England and Wales.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Enforcement in Scotland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Enforcement in Northern Ireland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Rights of entry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Power to inspect, take samples and seize goods and documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Application of sampling procedure to substance or article seized under s. 112.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Supplementary provisions as to rights of entry and related rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Analysis of samples in other cases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115A</td>
<td>Facilities for microbiological examinations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Liability to forfeiture under Customs and Excise Act 1952.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Special enforcement and sampling provisions relating to animal feeding stuffs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Restrictions on disclosure of information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Protection for officers of enforcement authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Compensation for loss of employment or loss or diminution of emoluments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Contravention due to default of other person.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
122 Warranty as defence.
123 Offences in relation to warranties and certificates of analysis.
124 Offences by bodies corporate.
125 Prosecutions.
126 Presumptions.
127 Service of documents.
128 Financial provisions.
129 Orders and regulations.
130 Meaning of “medicinal product” and related expressions.
131 Meaning of “wholesale dealing”, “retail sale” and related expressions.
132 General interpretation provisions.
133 General provisions as to operation of Act.
134 Special provisions as to Northern Ireland.
135 Minor and consequential amendments and repeals.
136 Short title, extent and commencement.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Provisions Relating to Medicines Commission and Committees
1 The Ministers may make provision by regulations with respect to...
2 The Ministers shall provide the Commission and each committee established...
3 The validity of any proceedings of the Commission or of...
4 The Commission and any such committee or sub-committee shall have...
5 The Ministers may pay to the members of the Commission...
6 The Ministers shall defray any expenses incurred with their approval...
7 Neither the Commission nor any such committee or sub-committee shall...

SCHEDULE 1A — PROVISIONS RELATING TO COMMISSION AND COMMITTEES
1 Interpretation
2 Co-opted members
3 Expert Advisory Groups
4 Appointment by the Commission of Expert Advisory Groups
5 Delegation of functions by Advisory Bodies
6 Terms of office of members
7 Staff, premises and facilities
8 Validity of proceedings
9 Proceedings
10 Remuneration and expenses of members
11 Expenses of Advisory Bodies and Expert Advisory Groups
12 Status

SCHEDULE 2 — SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE

Procedure on consultation with appropriate committee
1 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE
2 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE
3 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE
4 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE
5 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE

Procedure in other cases
6 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE

Hearing before person appointed
7 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE

Procedure in cases of urgency
8 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE
9 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE
10 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE
11 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE

Interpretation
12 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR VARIATION OF LICENCE

SCHEDULE 3 — SAMPLING

Introductory
1 (1) The provisions of this Schedule shall have effect where...

Division of sample
2 The sampling officer shall forthwith divide the sample into three...
3 If the sample was purchased by the sampling officer, otherwise...
4 If the sampling officer obtained the sample from an automatic...
5 If the sample is of goods consigned from outside the...
6 If, in a case not falling within any of paragraphs...
7 If, in a case not falling within any of paragraphs...
8 In any case not falling within any of paragraphs 3...
9 In every case falling within any of paragraphs 3, 4, ...
10 Of the remaining parts of the sample into which the...
11 Where a sample consists of substances or articles enclosed in...
12 Section 127 of this Act shall have effect in relation...
13 If after reasonable inquiry the sampling officer is unable to...

Notice to person named on container
14 (1) Where it appears to the sampling officer that a...

Analysis or other examination of sample
15 If the sampling officer decides to submit the sample for...
16 Where the relevant enforcement authority is a Minister or the...
17 Any such arrangements as are mentioned in paragraph 15(b) or...
18 (1) Subject to the following sub-paragraph, the person to whom...
19 (1) A public analyst who has analysed a sample submitted...
20 (1) Any person to whom, in accordance with paragraphs 2...
Provisions as to evidence

21 In any proceedings for an offence under this Act a...
22 In any proceedings for an offence under this Act a...
23 (1) If in any such proceedings before a magistrates’ court...

Analysis under direction of court

24 (1) In any proceedings for an offence under this Act,...
25 The costs of any analysis or examination under paragraph 24...

Proof by written statement

26 In relation to England and Wales section 9 of the...

Power to modify sampling provisions

27 The Ministers may by order provide that, in relation to...

Payment for sample taken under compulsory powers

28 (1) Where a sampling officer takes a sample in the...

Application of s. 64 to samples

29 Where a medicinal product is taken as a sample by...

SCHEDULE 4 — Provisions relating to Northern Ireland

1 (1) the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety...
2 Provisions relating to Northern Ireland
3 Provisions relating to Northern Ireland
4 Provisions relating to Northern Ireland
5 Provisions relating to Northern Ireland
6 The appropriate Northern Ireland Minister may in relation to Northern...
7 Where an order is made by virtue of paragraph 6...
8 Every order or regulation under this Act made by the...
9 In this Schedule “the appropriate Northern Ireland Minister”—
10 In this Act any reference to the Department of Health,....
11 The Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979, except article 5(2)
(a)...
SCHEDULE 8 — Enactments of Parliament of Northern Ireland Repealed.
Changes to legislation:
Medicines Act 1968 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 02 February 2020. 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:

- s. 10233133 amended (prosp.) by 1997 c. 19 s. 1 Sch. para. 2 (adding 1954 c 61 s. 13A-13M)
- s. 52 amended (prosp.) by 1997 c. 19 s. 1 Sch. para. 2 (adding 1954 c 61 s. 13A-13M)
- s. 67E words omitted by S.I. 2019/593 Sch. 2 para. 3(b)
- s. 67E words substituted by S.I. 2019/593 Sch. 2 para. 3(a)
- s. 69(1) amended (prosp.) by 1997 c. 19 s. 1 Sch. para. 5(a)
- s. 69(1ZA) omitted by S.I. 2019/593 Sch. 2 para. 4
- s. 71(7) omitted by S.I. 2019/593 Sch. 2 para. 5
- s. 75(4)-(6) omitted by S.I. 2016/372 art. 8
- s. 78(5) words omitted by S.I. 2019/593 Sch. 2 para. 6(a)
- s. 78(5A) words omitted by S.I. 2019/593 Sch. 2 para. 6(b)

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. 69(1A)(1B) added (prosp.) by 1997 c. 19 s. 1 Sch. para. 5(b)
- s. 84B inserted by S.I. 2016/372 art. 12