



National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990

1990 CHAPTER 19

PART II

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE: SCOTLAND

Miscellaneous

39 Distribution of general medical services.

- (1) In section 23 of the 1978 Act (distribution of general medical services), after subsection (1) there shall be inserted the following subsections—

“(1A) The Secretary of State may by order specify the maximum number of medical practitioners with whom, in any year, all Health Boards taken as a whole may enter into arrangements under section 19 for the provision of general medical services.

(1B) An order under subsection (1A) may contain such incidental and consequential provisions (including provisions amending this Part of this Act) as appear to the Secretary of State to be appropriate including, in particular, provisions as to the basis on which the Medical Practices Committee are to refuse applications under section 20 in order to secure that any maximum number specified in the order is not exceeded.”

- (2) At the beginning of subsection (2) of that section (the Medical Practices Committee to select the person whose applications are to be granted) there shall be inserted “Subject to subsection (2A)” and after that subsection there shall be inserted the following subsection—

“(2A) If, in the opinion of the Medical Practices Committee, a medical practitioner is required for a particular part of the area of a Health Board, then, in such circumstances as may be prescribed,—

Changes to legislation: National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990, Section 39 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 August 2023. 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. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (a) the Board shall, in accordance with regulations, select the medical practitioner whose application they wish to be considered by the Committee; and
 - (b) the Committee shall not consider any application from a medical practitioner who is not so selected; and
 - (c) any medical practitioner who has made an application but is not so selected may appeal to the Secretary of State on a point of law;
- and if the Secretary of State allows an appeal under paragraph (c) he shall remit the application to the Board for reconsideration.”

(3) In subsection (4) of that section (applications under section 20 may be granted subject to certain conditions), after the word “but” there shall be inserted—

- “(a) in granting an application shall specify, by reference to one or more prescribed conditions relating to hours or the sharing of work, the provision of general medical services for which the applicant will be entitled to be remunerated; and
- (b)”;

and at the end of the subsection there shall be inserted the words “and an order under subsection (1A) may make provision as to the extent to which account is to be taken under the order of medical practitioners whose ability to carry out remunerated work is limited by virtue of conditions imposed under paragraph (a)”.

(4) In subsection (5) of that section (appeals to the Secretary of State) for the words “such conditions” there shall be substituted “conditions under paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (4)” and for the words following “Secretary of State”, in the first place where those words occur, there shall be substituted “on a point of law; and, if the Secretary of State allows such an appeal, he shall remit the application to the Medical Practices Committee for reconsideration”.

(5) Subsection (7) of that section (directions on a successful appeal) shall be omitted.

(6) In subsection (8) of that section (matters to be taken into account) for the words from the beginning to “in any such case” there shall be substituted “In any case where medical practitioners have to be selected from a number of applicants, the Medical Practices Committee or, where subsection (2A) applies, the Health Board shall”.

(7) ^{F1}.....

(8) In the case of a medical practitioner who, on the day appointed for the coming into force of this section, is providing general medical services in accordance with arrangements under section 19 of the 1978 Act, regulations may make transitional provisions by virtue of which those services shall be treated for the purposes of that Act as provided subject to such of the prescribed conditions referred to in section 23(4) (a) of that Act as are determined under the regulations and, accordingly, for enabling any such condition to be varied in accordance with regulations under section 24(2) of that Act.

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 39(7) repealed (1.4.2004) by [Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 4\)](#), ss. 17, 21(2), [Sch. 4 para. 11\(a\)](#); S.S.I. 2004/148, [art. 2\(c\)](#)

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Commencement Information

- II** S. 39 partly in force; s. 39 (except 39(4)) in force for certain purposes at 1.4.1991, see [s. 67\(2\)](#) and [S.I. 1991/607](#), [art. 2](#), (art. 3(1) of [S.I. 1991/607](#) contains transitional provisions relating to s. 39(2))

Changes to legislation:

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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. 4A(1)(c) and word added by [S.I. 2006/1056 Sch. para. 5\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (This amendment comes into force on the day on which 2005 asp 13, s. 20 comes into force, see art. 1(2)(b))