PUBLIC HEALTH, ENGLAND

The Acute Rheumatism Regulations, 1950

1950 No. 1554

Made - - - -	20*th September*, 1950
Laid before Parliament	20*th September*, 1950
Coming into Operation	1*st October*, 1950

M.H. 110792

Whereas the Minister of Health is empowered by section 143 of the Public Health Act, 1936(**a**), to make regulations with a view to the treatment of persons affected with any epidemic, endemic or infectious disease and for preventing the spread of such disease, and by such regulations to apply, with or without modifications, to any disease to which the regulations relate, any enactment (including any enactment in the said Act) relating to the notification of disease or to notifiable diseases;

And Whereas acute rheumatism as hereinafter defined is an endemic disease;

And Whereas the Minister of Health is further empowered by section 283 of the said Act to prescribe the form of any certificate to be used for any of the purposes of the said Act:

Now, therefore, the Minister of Health in exercise of his powers under the said sections and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf hereby makes the following regulations:—

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Acute Rheumatism Regulations, 1950.

(2) These regulations shall come into operation on the first day of October, 1950, and shall continue in operation for a period of three years from that date.

(3) The Ilford (Acute Rheumatism) Regulations, 1938 to 1947, and the Paddington (Acute Rheumatism) Regulations, 1930, are hereby revoked.

2. These regulations shall apply to the counties of Cornwall and Lincoln, Parts of Lindsey, the county boroughs of Bristol, Grimsby, Kingston upon Hull, Lincoln, Salford and Sheffield, and the borough of Ilford, and shall be enforced and executed in every such district by the local authority.

3.—(1) In these regulations—

" acute rheumatism " means the following conditions occurring separately or together in a person under the age of sixteen years:—

(i) rheumatic pains or arthritis accompanied by a rise of temperature;

(a) 26 Geo. 5. & 1 Edw. 8. c. 49.

(ii) rheumatic chorea;

(iii) rheumatic carditis;

(iv) valvular disease of the heart of rheumatic origin;

"district" as respects a county mentioned in regulation 2 means that county; and

"local authority" in relation to a county mentioned in regulation 2 means the council thereof.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889(a), applies to the interpretation of these regulations as though these regulations and the regulations thereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

4. Every local authority shall send a copy of these regulations to every registered medical practitioner who, after due enquiry, is ascertained to be practising within their district.

5. Sections 144 to 146 of the Public Health Act, 1936, being enactments relating to the notification of disease, shall apply to acute rheumatism, save that section 144 shall so apply as modified and set out in the first schedule to these regulations.

6. The form set out in the second schedule to these regulations is hereby prescribed as the form of certificate to be used for the purposes of these regulations.

FIRST SCHEDULE

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Section 144.—(1) When an inmate of any building used for human habitation is suffering from acute rheumatism every medical practitioner attending on, or called in to visit that inmate (in this section referred to as the "patient") shall, as soon as he becomes aware that the patient is so suffering send to the medical officer of health of the district in which the building is situate, a certificate in the form set out in the second schedule to these regulations:

Provided that this sub-section shall not apply where the medical practitioner has already notified the case under any regulations in force immediately before these regulations come into operation.

(2) Any medical practitioner who fails to send a certificate which he is required by this section to send shall be liable to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.

(a) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Form of Certificate

To the Medical Officer of Health of.....

I hereby certify and declare that in my opinion.....(1) an inmate of .....(2) is suffering from acute rheumatism(3).

The case occurs { in my private practice(4) / in my practice as medical officer of a public body or institution(4) }

Age of Patient ..... Sex of Patient .....

Date of onset of the disease ..... 19 .

If patient is inmate of a hospital, the place from which patient was brought to the hospital .....

Date on which patient was so brought .....

Signed.....

Address.....

Dated the day of , 19 .

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(1) Insert full name.

(2) Insert full address.

(3) Acute rheumatism for the purpose of the Acute Rheumatism Regulations, 1950, means the following conditions occurring separately or together in a person under the age of 16 years:—

(i) rheumatic pains or arthritis accompanied by a rise of temperature;

(ii) rheumatic chorea;

(iii) rheumatic carditis;

(iv) valvular disease of the heart of rheumatic origin.

(4) Delete if inapplicable.

Given under the official seal of the Minister of Health this twentieth day of September, nineteen hundred and fifty.

(L.S.)

I. F. Armer,
Under Secretary,
Ministry of Health.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These regulations require the notification as from 1st October, 1950 of cases of acute rheumatism in persons under sixteen years of age occurring in the parts of England specified in the regulations.

These are the first such regulations to be made as respects Cornwall, Kingston upon Hull and Salford. The regulations in effect renew similar regulations expiring on 1st October, 1950 as respects Lincolnshire (Lindsey), Bristol, Grimsby, Lincoln and Sheffield and replace similar regulations, which they revoke, as respects Ilford. They also revoke, without replacement, similar regulations in force in Paddington.