1976 No. 199

HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES

General Medical and Pharmaceutical Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976

Made . . . . . *6th July* 1976

Coming into operation . . . . *1st August* 1976

The Department of Health and Social Services in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 55, 56, 57, 63, 64, 95, 106 and 107 of, and paragraph 7(5) of Schedule 3 to, the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(**a**) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf and in conjunction with the Department of Finance hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the General Medical and Pharmaceutical Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976 and shall come into operation on 1st August 1976.

Amendment of regulations

2. The Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical and Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973(**b**) as amended(**c**) shall be further amended by inserting after paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 4 the following sub-paragraphs:

"(1A) Where an order, not being an order to which the Poisons Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1974(**d**) or the Misuse of Drugs (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1974(**e**) apply, issued by a doctor or a dentist on a prescription form for drugs does not prescribe the quantity, strength or dosage thereof, a chemist may supply such strength and dosage of drugs so ordered as in the exercise of his professional skill, knowledge and care he shall consider to be appropriate, and, subject to the provisions of sub-paragraph (1B), in such quantity as he so considers to be appropriate for a course of treatment of the patient to whom the order relates, for a period not exceeding five days.

(1B) Where an order to which sub-paragraph (1A) applies is for—

(*a*) an oral contraceptive, or

(*b*) a drug which is available for supply as part of pharmaceutical services only together with one or more drugs, or

(*c*) an antibiotic in a liquid form for oral administration in respect of which pharmaceutical considerations require supply in an unopened package,

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(a) S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14)
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 421 (II, p. 2528)
(c) S.R. 1975 No. 180
(d) S.R. 1974 No. 246 (II, p. 1120)
(e) S.R. 1974 No. 272 (II, p. 1287)

which is not available for supply as part of pharmaceutical services except in such packages that the minimum available package contains a quantity appropriate to a course of treatment for a patient for a period more than five days, the chemist may supply for the patient to whom the order relates, such minimum available package."

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland on 6th July 1976.

(L.S.) *R. J. Christie*
Assistant Secretary.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance for Northern Ireland on 6th July 1976.

(L.S.) *C. F. Darling*
Senior Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These regulations amend the Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical and Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973 to enable a chemist to dispense drugs for up to a five-day course of treatment when a doctor or dentist has not set out the full prescription. In the exceptional cases listed in sub-paragraph (1B) of the new provision, where the normal minimum packaging is not appropriate to a five-day course of treatment, the chemist is however permitted to supply the normal minimum package available.