POLICY NOTE

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (FREE PRESCRIPTIONS AND CHARGES FOR DRUGS AND APPLIANCES) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2015

SSI 2015/160

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred on Scottish Ministers by sections 69(1) and 105(7) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978. The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

The Scottish Government abolished prescription charges in Scotland on 1 April 2011. Practice since then has been to charge the rate applied in England where a patient presents for dispensing in Scotland an English prescription form (unless the patient is ordinarily resident in Scotland and holds an Entitlement Card issued by a Health Board, in which case no charge will be made).

These regulation amendments increase the amount to be charged in respect of an English prescription in line with arrangements in England. The charges currently applied in England are £8.20 for a single item. The charges applied to elastic hosiery are £8.20 for a single item and £16.40 per pair. The existing exemption criteria arrangements remain ensuring current reciprocal arrangements can continue whereby exempt patients presenting Scottish prescription forms in England can collect their medication free of charge and vice versa.

Financial Effects

There is no financial effect associated with these amendment regulations.

Scottish Government
Healthcare Quality and Strategy Directorate
Pharmacy and Medicines Division
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