EXECUTIVE NOTE

The National Health Service (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2007/422

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 25(2), 105(7) and 108(1) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 and all other powers enabling them to do so. The instrument is subject to negative resolution.

Policy objective

The instrument amends the National Health Service (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 1996 (S.I. 1996/177) ("the principal Regulations") to increase the prior approval limit.

Where a dentist intends to undertake care and treatment under a continuing care or capitation arrangement or provide orthodontic treatment the cost of which will exceed a set limit then he or she has to obtain the prior approval of the Scottish Dental Practice Board to undertake the treatment.

The prior approval limit is set down in Part II of Schedule 4 to the principal Regulations and was raised to £280 in 2003. Item of service fees are contained in the Statement of Dental Remuneration and are normally increased with effect from 1 April each year, following the recommendations of the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body. Although the item of service fees have increased annually since 2003 the prior approval limit has not.

Regulation 2(2) of this instrument amends Part II of Schedule 4 to the principal Regulations to increase the prior approval limit from £280 to £350 to reflect increases in item of service fees since 2003 and other specific increases.

Consultation

The British Dental Association has been advised of the increase in the prior approval limit.

Financial effects

The increase in the prior approval limit has no financial effects.

Consolidation

Work is currently underway to consolidate the principal Regulations.

Scottish Executive
September 2007