The Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951

1951 No. 1081

Made - - - -	21*st June*, 1951
Laid before Parliament	21*st June*, 1951
Coming into Operation	1*st August*, 1951

M.H.64.

The Minister of Health in exercise of his powers under sections 143 and 283 of the Public Health Act, 1936(a), and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951, and shall come into operation on the first day of August, 1951.

(2) In these regulations the following expressions have the respective meanings hereby assigned to them—

"puerperal pyrexia" means any febrile condition occurring in a woman in whom a temperature of 100·4° Fahrenheit (38° Centigrade) or more has occurred within fourteen days after childbirth or miscarriage;

"district" includes the City of London and a metropolitan borough; and

"local authority" includes the Common Council of the City of London and the council of a metropolitan borough.

(3) The Interpretation Act, 1889(b), applies to the interpretation of these regulations as though these regulations and the regulations hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

2. The Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1939(c), and the Public Health (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926 and 1928(d), in so far as the same are still in force, are hereby revoked.

3. These regulations shall be enforced and executed in every district by the local authority thereof.

4. Every local authority shall send a copy of these regulations to each medical practitioner who after due inquiry 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 puerperal pyrexia, 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 section 144 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as applied to puerperal pyrexia by these regulations.

(a) 26 Geo. 5. & 1 Edw. 8. c. 49. (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.
(c) S.R. & O. 1939 (No. 259) p. 2910.
(d) S.R. & O. 1926 (No. 972) p. 1183 and S.R. & O. 1928 (No. 420) p. 1062.

FIRST SCHEDULE

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Section 144.—(1) When an inmate of any building used for human habitation is suffering from puerperal pyrexia 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.

(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:

Provided that this section shall not apply in relation to a case which has been notified under any of the regulations revoked by these regulations.

SECOND SCHEDULE

FORM OF CERTIFICATE

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

I hereby certify and declare that in my opinion .....(1) now at .....(2) is suffering from puerperal pyrexia.

Age of patient .....

Date of confinement or miscarriage.....19....

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

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

Date on which patient was so brought .....19....

Did the case occur in general practice? .....

If case occurred in practice as medical officer of a public body or institution, name of the body or institution .....

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Dated the ..... day of .....19....

(1) Insert full name.

(2) Insert full address.

Given under the official seal of the Minister of Health this twenty-first day of June, nineteen hundred and fifty-one.

(L.S.)

H. A. Marquand,
Minister of Health.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These regulations will apply throughout England and Wales, including London. They replace regulations which have been in force in London and the remainder of the country respectively. They continue the effect of those regulations making puerperal pyrexia a notifiable disease, with slight modifications, including a revised definition of puerperal pyrexia which the administration of the replaced regulations has shown to be necessary.