



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

WELFARE FOOD SCHEME: REIMBURSEMENT FOR
DRIED MILK

Summary

1. This memorandum invites you to notify Finance Departments in Health Boards and NHS Trusts of revised arrangements for reimbursement for dried milk supplied under the Welfare Food Scheme. It also invites you to request details of local welfare food distribution schemes in order to update our records and to inform policy direction.

Background

2. The Scottish Office Home and Health Department reimburses Health Boards and NHS Trusts for dried milk supplied to Income Support and Family Credit beneficiaries under the Welfare Food Scheme. Entitlement to dried milk is for 900 grammes per week for children under the age of one year.

3. A great many Health Boards and NHS Trusts currently supply infant formulae in both 900 and 450 gramme packs and in a few cases exclusively in 450 gramme packs. This is a costly way of supplying milk as the difference in cost between a large tin and 2 small tins is in the region of 20 pence.

4. If all Health Boards and Trusts were to distribute 900 gramme tins only, for Income Support beneficiaries alone, over £11,000 of public money would be saved every year in Scotland. There would also be savings to Health Boards and Trusts in administration and handling expenses.

5. We propose, therefore, to reimburse at 900 gramme tin prices only, for both Income Support and Family Credit claims, in respect of the quarter ending September 1995 and following quarters. Existing stocks of 450 gramme tins should be depleted by July. We also wish to remind Health Boards and Trusts that they will only be reimbursed for the cost price of milk supplied.

// April 1995

NHS MEL(1994)81 is cancelled

Addressees

For action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

Chief Executives, NHS
Trusts

For information:
General Manager,
Health Education Board
for Scotland

General Manager,
Common Services Agency

General Manager, State
Hospital

Enquiries to:

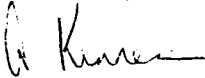
Miss Bearhop
HPPHD1-3
Room 54H
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131 244 2436
Fax: 0131 244 2846

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6. We are aware that some Health Boards and Trusts have introduced their own welfare food distribution arrangements, using community pharmacies instead of, or in addition to, health clinics. We would like to receive full details of any such schemes, including pricing and distribution arrangements by the end of April. Written details should be forwarded to Miss Aileen Bearhop, HPPHD1-3, Room 54H, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG (Tel: 0131 244 2436).

Yours sincerely



ff D J PALMER
Deputy Director of Finance