



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

7 September 1995

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE LOW INCOME
SCHEME - REVISION OF CLAIM FORMS AG1 AND
AG5**

Summary

1. This circular draws attention to the revision of Low Income Scheme claim forms AG1 "Help with NHS charges and the cost of travel to hospital for NHS treatment" and AG5 "Claim for refund of NHS charges paid and the cost of travel from hospital for NHS treatment".
2. The content of both forms have been revised to make them easier to use and the colour has been changed to two tone blue with white answer boxes. Supplies of the revised forms will be available in the usual way from HMSO. Existing stocks of the old versions of these forms should be used before the new versions are issued. The old versions should **not** be destroyed.

Background

3. The NHS Low Income Scheme (LIS) helps eligible patients to pay NHS charges and the costs incurred travelling to and from hospital. Recipients of Income Support and Family Credit (and their dependants) are automatically entitled to help under the LIS, as are recipients of Disability Working Allowance (DWA) with savings of less than £8,000 when DWA was claimed (and their dependants). The Health Benefits Unit, will assess other patients' eligibility for assistance under the Scheme on receipt of form AG1.

Addressees

For action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

Chief Executives,
NHS Trusts

For information:
General Manager,
State Hospital

General Manager,
Common Services Agency

General Manager,
Health Education Board

Enquiries to:

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HPPHD4
Scottish Office Home and
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Room 29F
St Andrew's House
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EH1 3DE

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Form AG5 should be completed by patients who:-

- a. cannot show evidence of entitlement under the Scheme at the time the dental charge is made or travelling expenses incurred; or
- b. are awaiting assessment on low income grounds by the Health Benefits Division or waiting to hear from the Department of Social Security about a claim for Income Support, Family Credit or Disability Working Allowance.

Action

4. Health Boards and NHS Trusts are asked to note the following:

- Content of the New Forms

Both the AG1 and AG5 now reflect that recipients of Disability Working Allowance (DWA) (who had capital of £8,000 or less when the benefit was claimed) (and their dependants) are automatically entitled to health benefits in the same way as recipients of Income Support and Family Credit.

- Changes Made

The revised forms collect the same information as previously except as described below:

Claiming Arrangements

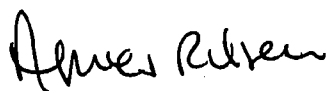
- a. In cases where a claim for a refund of **travel costs** is being made, hospitals are no longer required to note attendance dates on the new form AG5.
 - b. In cases where a claim for a refund of **dental charges** is being made, the new form AG5 asks patients paying for dental treatment by instalments to make a claim when they have completed paying for their treatment.
- NHS Treatment provided by Private Hospitals

Authorised forms AG5 will be sent by the Health Benefits Division or Department of Social Security Office for payment by the hospital where NHS treatment was carried out. The hospital will seek a refund from the National Health Service purchaser. If the purchaser is a GP fundholder, the health board will be responsible for the refund.

Comments

5. If you have any comments about the revised forms please send them to:

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The Scottish Office Home and Health Department
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