



NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
9 July 1996

Dear Colleague

WELFARE FOOD SCHEME

Summary

1. This letter informs Health Boards and NHS Trusts of changes in legislation governing the Welfare Food Scheme as follows:

1.1 a revised price to be paid by Family Credit recipients for dried baby-milk;

1.2 a change in the entitlement of breastfeeding mothers to receive welfare milk and vitamins.

2. It also advises on the introduction of a new milk token and on charges for vitamin drops and tablets.

Action

3. The revised Regulations came into effect on 27 June 1996. This letter should be brought to the attention of all staff involved in the management of welfare food distribution and staff in maternity and child health clinics and other welfare food distribution centres.

Yours sincerely

DR K WOODS
Director of Purchasing

ISD LIBRARY B044
Common Services Agency
NHS in Scotland
Trinity Park House
South Trinity Road
Edinburgh EH5 3SQ

Addressees

For action:
General Managers, Health Boards

Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

For information:

General Manager, Common Services Agency

General Manager, State Hospitals Board for Scotland

General Manager, Health Education Board for Scotland

Executive Director, SCPMDE

Enquiries to:

Miss R Russell
PHPU1-2
Room 14
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 3574
Fax: 0131-244 2683

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CHANGES TO THE WELFARE FOOD SCHEME

Welfare Food Regulations 1996

1. Prior to 27 June 1996, the Welfare Food Scheme was governed by the Welfare Food Regulations 1988 (SI 1988 No 536). These Regulations have now been replaced by the Welfare Food Regulations 1996 which consolidate, with minor amendments, the Welfare Food Regulations 1988 and subsequent amendments.

Sale of Dried Baby-Milk to Family Credit Recipients

2. From 27 June 1996 the price to be paid by Family Credit recipients for 900 grammes of dried baby-milk increases from £3.55 to £3.65.

Entitlement of breastfeeding mothers to Welfare Foods

3. From 27 June 1996 breastfeeding mothers in receipt of Income Support or income-based Jobseekers Allowance are entitled to receive free vitamins and to receive free liquid cows milk in exchange for tokens until their child is aged one year. This revises the previous period of entitlement of 30 weeks. Health Boards and Trusts should ensure that breastfeeding mothers are able to receive their entitlement of 2 containers of 45 vitamin tablets or 2 x 10ml bottles of drops every 13 weeks until their child reaches the age of one year.

Introduction of a New Milk Token

4. A new milk token has been introduced for issue to beneficiaries from June 1996. The new token is wider in size, has a blank space for the date stamp and has improved information on the back, including a bar code which will assist some shops and supermarkets when exchanging the token for liquid milk. The token also enables Health Boards and Trusts to record which type of milk has been issued. The new token is valid for four weeks from the date it is stamped. Old style tokens should be accepted until existing supplies are exhausted.

Charges for Vitamins

5. Vitamin drops and tablets are currently sold at Welfare Food distribution outlets to family credit beneficiaries and members of the public. Health boards and Trusts are reminded that the price charged is:

- a. the contract price listed in the Health Service Supply Purchasing Guide, plus
- b. a 10 per cent handling charge, plus
- c. the standard VAT charge on the sum of the above.

The current contract prices listed are £149.81 for 360 x 10ml bottles of vitamin drops and £88.05 for 240 packs of vitamin tablets (including VAT).