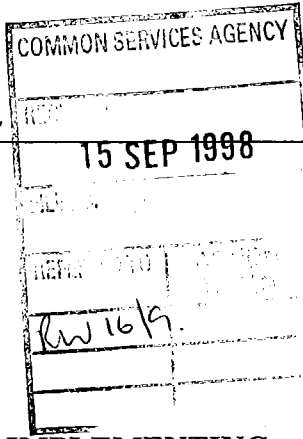




THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Department of Health



NHS
MEL(1998)61

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

14th September 1998

Dear Colleague

**NHS (PRIMARY CARE) ACT 1997: IMPLEMENTING
CHANGES RELATING TO PRE-REGISTRATION
HOUSE OFFICERS (PRHOs) IN GENERAL PRACTICE**

1. The attached Regulations are made under provisions of the Medical Act 1983, amended by the Primary Care Act 1997. They permit Pre-Registration House Officers (PRHOs) to spend a portion of their prescribed period of general clinical training in an approved medical practice in Scotland. They also prescribe the requirements for approval of a medical practice for the purposes of employing a PRHO and prescribe the conditions of residence to be complied with by a PRHO during such employment.

2. Medical graduates are already able to spend a part of their prescribed period of clinical training ("the PRHO year") in general practice. However, training in primary care has been possible only to a very limited extent because Section 12 of the Medical Act limited PRHOs to employment in a residential medical capacity only in approved hospitals or certain health centres.

3. These new Regulations allow a PRHO to live in accommodation within the NHS Trust hospital approved for general clinical training, while working within the primary care sector. If this is not convenient for the practice in which this part of the training is being undertaken, he may live in other accommodation more convenient for the practice premises.

4. This change will significantly increase the opportunities for PRHOs to spend up to 4 months of their general clinical training in general practice, experiencing primary care at first hand and broadening their clinical expertise.

Yours sincerely

DR INGRID J CLAYDEN
Directorate of Human Resources

Addressees

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