



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department
Directorate of Primary Care and Community Care

Primary Care Division
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
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Dear Colleague

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENTS PARAGRAPH 18 DISPENSING

Summary

1. This Circular announces an amendment to the Statement of Financial Entitlements which has the effect of changing the arrangements for collection of prescription charges gathered by dispensing doctors from patients with effect from January 2006 dispensings.

Background

2. Dispensing doctors are responsible for collecting the charges due from patients in respect of prescriptions they dispense. At present the amount collected is remitted to Practitioner Services Division. Dispensing doctors are then reimbursed the gross amount due in respect of their drug purchases on behalf of the NHS without further deduction.
3. Dispensing doctors' obligations with regard to checking and annotating prescriptions where patients are exempt from charges are detailed in the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Scotland) Regulations 2004 Schedule 5 Part 3 Paragraphs 9-11 and the National Health Service (Primary Medical Services Section 17c Agreements) (Scotland) Regulations 2004. Schedule 1 Pt3 Para 15 Paragraphs 9-11.
4. By contrast the arrangement for recovering patient charges on prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists is that Practitioner Services Division calculate on the basis of the exemptions claimed on the reverse of the script the amount of patient charges due and deduct this amount from the drug cost reimbursement.

24 November 2005

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Director of Practitioner Services,
NHS NSS

For information

Chief Executive, NHS NSS
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5. NHSScotland Counter Fraud Services have recommended that to reduce the potential for fraud, arrangements for recovering patient charges on prescriptions dispensed by dispensing doctors should be brought into line with those already in place for prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists.

Detail

6. The Statement of Financial Entitlement (SFE) is hereby amended to add the following sub-paragraph:

“Patient Charges

18.15 All reimbursements made under this section in respect of dispensings made from 1 January 2006 onwards will be subject to deduction of the appropriate patient charge, except where the prescription is duly endorsed by the patient, their representative or the practice, to claim exemption from charges.”

A copy of the revised Statement of Financial Entitlement can be accessed from the Pay Modernisation website: www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/paymodernisation/

Action

7. **Dispensing practices** should note the contents of this Circular and take **the appropriate action by checking that all prescriptions are appropriately endorsed.**
8. **NHS Boards** should copy this Circular to all dispensing GP practices within their area and to the secretary of the GP sub-committee of the Area Medical Committee.

Yours sincerely



Dr Hamish Wilson
Head of Primary Care Division