

# THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES) REGULATIONS 1992

## *Schedule 2*

### Terms of Service for Doctors

#### ***Important Note***

This copy of the NHS (General Medical Services) Regulations 1992 has been electronically reproduced from a version published March 1999 by the GPC secretariat, which was the 1996 consolidated version additionally incorporating seven further statutory instruments (SI).

Although the document has been checked for errors, it is intended only as a guide for members and constituents of the WMRLMC, and has no official status. For a statement of law, reference must be made to the appropriate statutory instrument.

#### **Prescribing**

43. (1) Subject to paragraph 44, a doctor shall order any drugs or appliances which are needed for the treatment of any patient to whom he is providing treatment under these terms of service by issuing to that patient a prescription form, and such a form shall not be used in any other circumstances.
- (2) In issuing any such prescription form the doctor shall himself sign the form in ink with his initials, or forenames, and surname in his own handwriting and not by means of a stamp, and shall so sign only after particulars of the order have been inserted in the form, and:
- (a) the prescription shall not refer to any previous prescription; and
  - (b) a separate prescription form shall be used for each patient, except where a doctor is prescribing in bulk for a school or institution under paragraph 45.
- (3) Where a doctor orders drugs specified in Schedule 2 to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1985<sup>1</sup> (controlled drugs to which regulations 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25 and 26 of those Regulations apply) for supply by instalments for treating addiction to any drug specified in that Schedule, he shall:
- (a) use only the prescription form provided by the HA specially for the purposes of supply by instalments;
  - (b) specify the number of instalments to be dispensed and the interval between each instalment; and
  - (c) order only such quantity of the drug as will provide treatment for a period not exceeding, 14 days.
- (4) The form provided by the HA specially for the purpose of supply by instalments shall not be used for any purpose other than ordering drugs in accordance with subparagraph (3) of this paragraph.
- (5) In a case of urgency a doctor may request a chemist to dispense a drug or an appliance before a prescription form is issued, only if:

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<sup>1</sup> S.I. 1985/2066; the relevant amending instrument is S.I. 1986/2330.

- (a) that drug is not a Scheduled drug;
  - (b) that drug is not a controlled drug within the meaning of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971<sup>2</sup>, other than a drug which is for the time being, specified in Schedule 5 to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1985; and
  - (c) the doctor undertakes to furnish the chemist, within 72 hours, with a prescription form completed in accordance with sub-paragraph (2).
44. (1) In the course of treating, a patient to whom he is providing treatment under these terms of service, a doctor shall not order on a prescription form a drug or other substance specified in Schedule 10 to these Regulations but may otherwise prescribe such a drug or other substance for that patient in the course of that treatment.
- (2) In the course of treating such a patient a doctor shall not order on a prescription form a drug specified in an entry in column 1 of Schedule 11 to these Regulations unless:
- (a) that patient is a person of a description mentioned in column 2 of that entry;
  - (b) that drug is prescribed for that patient only for the purpose specified in column 3 of that entry; and
  - (c) the doctor endorses the face of the form with the reference "SLS", but may otherwise prescribe such a drug for that patient in the course of that treatment.
45. (1) Where a doctor:
- (a) is responsible under these terms of service for the treatment of 10 or more persons in a school or other institution in which at least 20 persons normally reside; and
  - (b) orders, for any two or more of those persons for whose treatment he is responsible, drums or appliances to which this paragraph applies, he may use a single prescription form for the purpose.
- (2) Where a doctor uses a single prescription form for the purpose mentioned in sub-paragraph (1), he shall (instead of entering on the form the names of the persons for whom the drugs or appliances are ordered) enter on the form:
- (a) the name of the institution in which those persons reside; and
  - (b) the number of persons residing there for whose treatment he is responsible.
- (3) This paragraph applies to any drug or appliance which can be supplied as part of pharmaceutical services and which:
- (a) in the case of a drug, is not a product of a description or class which is for the time being specified in an order made under section 58(1) of the Medicines Act 1968<sup>3</sup>; or
  - (b) in the case of an appliance, does not contain such a product.
46. For the purposes of paragraphs 43 and 44 in their application to a doctor who has undertaken to provide contraceptive services, "drums" includes contraceptive substances and "appliances" includes contraceptive appliances.

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<sup>2</sup> 1971 c.38.

<sup>3</sup> 1968 c.67. See S.I. 1983/1212 as amended by S.I. 1984/756, 1986/586, 1987/674, 1987/1250, 1988/2017 and 1989/1852.