

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (CHARGES FOR DRUGS AND
APPLIANCES) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2007

2007 No. 543

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by Department of Health and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

2.1 These Regulations amend the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations 2000.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 These Regulations are made under powers in the National Health Service Act 1977. This Act will be consolidated with effect from 1st March 2007, before these Regulations come into force, by the National Health Service Act 2006. The Department has sought to explain in the footnotes the destination of the relevant 1977 Act powers in the 2006 Act.

4. Legislative Background

4.1 These regulations amend the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations 2000 to increase the prescription charge per item from £6.65 to £6.85 and increase the charges for prescription pre-payment certificates, wigs and fabric supports by the same percentage as the increase in the prescription charge.

5. Extent

5.1 This instrument applies to England.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

As the instrument is subject to the negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy background

The National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations 2000 provide for NHS prescription charges to be recovered from patients for the supply of drugs or appliances. The change increases the current prescription charge by 20p and will help maintain the contribution charges make to NHS funding. The increases in the

other charges made by these Regulations are in line with the rate of increase in the prescription charge. These increase in the prescription charge is 3.0 per cent.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

8.2 The cost to the public is an additional 20p per prescribed item dispensed to those who are not entitled to free prescriptions. The additional cost per prepayment certificate or appliance is in the table.

Item	Current Charges	From 1 April 07
Prescription	£6.65	£6.85
12-month PPC	£95.30	£98.70
4-Month PPC	£34.65	£35.85
Surgical brassiere	£22.30	£23.10
Abdominal or spinal support	£33.75	£34.95
Stock modacrylic wig	£55.10	£57.00
Partial human hair wig	£145.55	£150.75
Full bespoke human hair wig	£212.85	£220.50

9. Contact

Eleanor Shenton at the Department of Health Tel: 020 7972 2923 or e-mail: eleanor.shenton@dh.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding the instrument.