



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department
Directorate of Primary Care and Community Care

Primary Care Division
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

15 December 2006

Addresses

For action

Nominated Individuals in each Health Board area

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information:

Chief Executive,
State Hospital Board for Scotland

Chief Executive,
NHS Health Scotland

Chief Executive,
NHS 24

Executive Director,
NHS Education

Chief Executive,
NHS Quality Improvement

Chief Executive,
NHS National Services Scotland

Counter Fraud Services

Enquiries to:

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Dear Colleague

INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON HELP WITH NHS HEALTH COSTS

Summary

1. This circular advises NHS Boards about the issues and distribution arrangements for:

- HCS1 “Help with Health Costs”
- HCS2 “Help with Health Costs, Charges and Optical Voucher Values” information booklet (This is an amalgamation of “The Quick Guide to Help with Health Costs” (HCS1Q) and “Charges and Optical Voucher Values” (HCS2))
- HCS3 “Help with Health Costs” poster

Background

2. HCS1 “Help with Health Costs” provides detailed information on help with health costs, exemption categories and NHS charges for treatment. This information will no longer, as in the past, be distributed in hard copy, but is now available on line at www.scotland.gov.uk/healthcosts

3. The “Help with Health Costs, Charges and Optical Voucher Values” information booklet (HCS2) gives a brief overview of exemption categories and of NHS charges for dental and optical treatment and prescriptions. The booklet is also available online at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/healthcosts> Printed copies of the booklet will be distributed to NHS Boards for distribution to every GP practice, Community Pharmacy, Dental Practice and Optician.

4. The information contained in HCS1 and HCS2 will be updated as necessary to reflect any changes to treatment and prescription charges, or amendment of the rules which govern exemption from charges.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



5. The HCS3 poster informs patients of where they can find out more about help with health costs and NHS charges. The poster will be distributed with the HCS2 booklet and is also available online at www.scotland.gov.uk/healthcosts

6. Supplies of the HCS2 will also be sent to Citizens Advice Scotland and Job Centre Plus offices.

Action

7. NHS Boards are, as quickly as possible, to bring this letter to the attention of all those involved in dealing with matters that relate to prescription charges and refunds, prescription pre-payment certificates, elastic hosiery, fabric supports and wigs. Recipients of supplies of the guidance material should be advised that once the initial stocks are reducing they should order a further supply to ensure they always maintain a stock of booklets.

8. Supplies of the HCS 2 and HCS 3 have been issued to nominated individuals in each NHS Board for distribution to GP Practices, Dental Practices, Opticians and Community Pharmacies.

9. Further supplies of the HCS 2 and HCS 3 can be obtained from;

Banner Business Supplies Ltd
Unit 2
Kingsthorne Park
Nettlehill Road
Houston Industrial Estate
LIVINGSTON
EH54 5DB

Yours sincerely

Chin Naldrett


pp DR JONATHAN PRYCE
Head of Primary Care Division