



Dear Colleague

ADDITIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES MINOR AILMENT SERVICE AMENDMENT DIRECTIONS

Purpose

1. This Circular encloses amendments to the Health Board Additional Pharmaceutical Services (Minor Ailment Service (Scotland) Directions 2016 for the Minor Ailment Service (MAS) in respect of eligibility for the service, which come into effect on 1 April 2020. It provides an update to the arrangements outlined earlier in circular PCA(P)(2020) 5. This circular supersedes circular PCA(P)(2020) 5.

2. It also advises of a postponement to the introduction of the NHS Pharmacy First Scotland service, which was due to start in April 2020.

Background

3. NHS Circular PCA (P)(2016) 12, issued on 20 July 2016 provided updated Directions – the Health Board Additional Pharmaceutical Services (Minor Ailment Service) (Scotland) Directions 2016 (“2016 Directions”). The 2016 Directions were subsequently amended by the Health Board Additional Pharmaceutical Services (Minor Ailment Service) (Scotland) Amendment Directions 2018 issued under NHS Circular PCA (P)(2018) 5 (“2018 Directions”).

4. NHS Circular PCA (P)(2020) 5, issued on 22 March 2020 advised of a change to the eligibility criteria for the Minor Ailment Service (MAS) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. This circular provides further details on eligibility and supersedes circular PCA(P)(2020) 5 in terms of who can access the service.

31 March 2020

Addresses

For action

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

For information

Directors of Pharmacy
Chief Executive, NHS NSS

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Detail

6. The amendment Directions attached at **Annex A** amend who is an “eligible person” for MAS to anyone who is registered with a GP practice in Scotland on a permanent basis or who is registered with Defence Medical Services, being the medical services of the air force, army and navy of the United Kingdom.
7. Other eligibility requirements based on age, medical exemptions and income related benefits are now removed by this amendment. It should be noted that residents of care homes and people who are registered with a GP practice on a temporary basis are not eligible for MAS. **Annex B** sets out the eligibility criteria that applies from 1 April 2020.
8. The amendment Directions must be read alongside the [2016 Directions](#) for MAS, as amended by the [2018 Directions](#).
9. Every new patient who historically could not access MAS should be registered as having a War Pension exemption certificate (Exemption F). All claims will be submitted electronically via PMRs as is the case just now.
10. Pharmacy teams are trusted to use their expertise and experience to decide how best to deliver this “extended MAS” in their communities, though the expectation is that the service should be used for anyone appropriately referred to pharmacy from NHS24 or other local triage services but can also be used by walk-in consultations.
11. The current MAS formulary in place in for each Board should continue to be used.
12. A separate circular outlining remuneration arrangements from April 2020 onwards will be issued in due course.
13. Current reimbursement arrangements will continue, with the addition of POM packs of Paracetamol products being allowed via a PGD to facilitate supply.

Postponement of NHS Pharmacy First Scotland

14. The NHS Pharmacy First Scotland service was due to go live on 22 April 2020. Due to the current pressures on pharmacy teams responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport has decided to postpone the launch of NHS Pharmacy First Scotland until pharmacy teams have capacity to deliver the new service as fully intended.

Consultation

15. Community Pharmacy Scotland has been consulted on the contents of this circular

Action

16. NHS Boards are asked to:
- Note the contents of this circular,
 - Copy this circular to all community pharmacy contractors on their pharmaceutical lists, Health and Social Care partnerships and the Area Pharmaceutical Board.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rose Marie Parr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rose Marie Parr

Chief Pharmaceutical Officer and Deputy Director,
Pharmacy and Medicines Division

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND) ACT 1978

HEALTH BOARD ADDITIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES (MINOR AILMENT SERVICE) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT DIRECTIONS 2020

The Scottish Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 2(5), 27A, 27B, and 105(6) and (7) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978¹, and all other powers enabling them to do so, give the following Directions.

1. Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.1. These Directions may be cited as the Health Board Additional Pharmaceutical Services (Minor Ailment Service) (Scotland) Amendment Directions 2020 and come into force on 1 April 2020.

1.2. In these Directions—

“the Act” means the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978²,

“the 2016 Directions” means the Health Board Additional Pharmaceutical Services (Minor Ailment Service) (Scotland) Directions 2016³ as amended by the Health Board Additional Pharmaceutical Services (Minor Ailment Service) (Scotland) Amendment Directions 2018⁴,

“the 2017 Directions” means the Health Board Additional Pharmaceutical Services (Minor Ailment Service) (Inverclyde Pilot Extension) (Scotland) Directions 2017⁵, and

“Extended Minor Ailment Service” has the meaning provided in paragraph 3 of the 2017 Directions.

2. Amendment of the Health Board Additional Pharmaceutical Services (Minor Ailment Service) (Scotland) Directions 2016

2.1. The 2016 Directions are amended in accordance with paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3.

2.2. In paragraph 2.1 for the definition of “eligible person” substitute—

““eligible person” means a person who at the time of initial registration, and at the time of any subsequent consultation, is registered—

(a) with the Defence Medical Services, or

(b) on a permanent basis with a GP in Scotland,

except that a person who would be eligible by virtue of (a) or (b) is not an eligible person if that person is a person whose main or usual residence is a care home, and “eligible persons” shall be construed accordingly.”.

¹ 1978 c.29; section 2(5) was amended by the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 (c.19), section 66(1) and schedule 9, paragraph 19(1); section 27A was inserted by the National Health Service (Primary Care) Act 1997 (c.46) (“the 1997 Act”), section 27(2); section 27B was inserted by the 1997 Act, section 28(2); section 105(7) was amended by the Health Services Act 1980 (c.53), section 25(3) and schedule 6, paragraph 5(1) and schedule 7, the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983 (c.41), section 29(1) and schedule 9, Part I, paragraph 24 and the Health Act 1999 (c.8), section 65 and schedule 4, paragraph 60. The functions of the Secretary of State were transferred to the Scottish Ministers by virtue of section 53 of the Scotland Act 1998 (c.46).

² 1978 c.29

³ PCA (P)(2016) 12.

⁴ PCA (P)(2018) 5.

⁵ PCA (P)(2017) 2.

2.3. In paragraph 2.2—

- (a) in subparagraph (a) for “National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Scotland) Regulations 2004” substitute “National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Scotland) Regulations 2018⁶”, and
- (b) in subparagraph (b) for “National Health Service (Primary Medical Services Section 17C Agreements) (Scotland) Regulations 2004” substitute “National Health Service (Primary Medical Services Section 17C Agreements) (Scotland) Regulations 2018⁷”.

3. **Revocation**

- 3.1. Subject to paragraph 3.2, these Directions revoke and supersede the 2017 Directions.
- 3.2. The 2017 Directions shall continue to apply in respect of any Extended Minor Ailment Service provided on or before 31 March 2020.

Dr Rose Marie Parr
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers

St Andrew’s House,
Edinburgh
31 March 2020

⁶ S.S.I. 2018/66.

⁷ S.S.I. 2018/67.

Eligibility requirements for MAS from 1 April 2020

The following persons are eligible for the service:

- persons who are registered with the Defence Medical Services;
- persons who are registered on a permanent basis with a Scottish GP practice.

The following persons are not eligible:

- persons who are not registered with either a Scottish GP practice or the Defence Medical Services, or are only registered with a Scottish GP practice as a temporary resident;
- persons who are listed above but are resident in a care home.