

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The National Health Service

(Charges for Drugs and Appliances)

Amendment (Wales) Regulations 2000

Background

Section 77 of the National Health Service Act 1977 provides for the making of Regulations prescribing charges for drugs and surgical appliances.

The charges currently in force are set out in the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations 1989, as amended.

The present Regulations further amend the 1989 Regulations by providing for increases in the charges specified in the Schedule. For each charge which is increased the table in the Schedule identifies the old charge in each case and specifies the new substituted figure opposite to it.

Standing Order 11.5

No points have been identified as matters in respect of which the Committee needs to invite the Assembly to pay special attention under Standing Order 11.5.

There are some general observations which it is considered should be drawn to the attention of the Assembly, however.

General Observations

Regulation 2 and Schedule

It is assumed that the increased charges which are now being introduced for Wales are to be paralleled by identical increases in England. On this basis the insertion of the new charges for Wales without any provision to indicate that they only apply to Wales is quite acceptable.

If there were to be different charges between Wales and England, however, it would have been desirable for the inserted figures to be coupled in each case, with an indication that they are figures applicable only in Wales.

M. GERMAN

Chair,

Legislation Committee

14th March 2000