1967. No. 228 **[C]**

HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital and Specialist Services

Travelling Expenses Etc. of Relatives of Patients

REGULATIONS, DATED 23RD AUGUST 1967, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, UNDER THE HEALTH SERVICES ACTS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1948 TO 1967.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 21 of the Health Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1948(**a**) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf and in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and Interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Health Services (Travelling Expenses Etc. of Relatives of Patients) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967, and shall come into operation on 1st September 1967.

(2) In these Regulations—

(*a*) the word "relative" means—

(i) a person related to a patient; or

(ii) the guardian of a patient;

(*b*) the word "tuberculosis" means the disease caused by tubercle bacillus.

Revocation

2. The Health Services (Travelling Expenses of Relatives) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1955(**b**) and the Health Services (Travelling Expenses of Relatives of Patients suffering from Tuberculosis) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1959(**c**) are hereby revoked.

Conditions of Payment

3. Subject to the provisions of these Regulations the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority (hereinafter referred to as "the Authority") may, on request by the relative, pay the whole or part of any travelling expenses incurred by a relative of a patient in visiting that patient while he is undergoing treatment in any hospital or other institution operated, controlled or approved by the Authority.

4. Payments under these Regulations shall be made only where:—

(*a*) the expenses necessarily incurred exceed two shillings and sixpence in respect of each visit or five shillings per week;

(*b*) the expenses are claimed within three months from the date on which they were incurred; and

(*c*) the Supplementary Benefits Commission for Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") are satisfied that in the circumstances of the case the payment of such expenses by the relative would involve hardship.

(a) 1948. c. 3.
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1955, No. 135.
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1959, No. 53.

5.—(1) Payments under these Regulations shall be made only in respect of approved visits under this Regulation and Regulation 7.

(2) For the purposes of this Regulation an "approved visit" means:—

(*a*) a visit to a patient whose age does not exceed twelve years; or

(*b*) a visit to a patient whose age exceeds twelve years and who has been undergoing treatment in a hospital or institution or in hospitals or institutions for a continuous period of not less than eight weeks or who has been undergoing treatment for tuberculosis for any length of time; or

(*c*) a visit to a patient who has been certified by the medical officer in charge of his case to be suffering from a clinical condition of such a nature that the visit of the relative is necessary or expedient on medical grounds for the success of his treatment; or

(*d*) a visit to a patient who has been certified by the medical officer in charge of his case to be dangerously ill.

(3) The maximum number of return journeys which may be paid for by the Authority under these Regulations shall be:—

(*a*) in the case of a patient referred to in sub-paragraph (2)(*a*) one per day, or seven per week;

(*b*) in the case of a patient referred to in sub-paragraph (2)(*b*) one per fortnight, or two per four weeks;

(*c*) in the case of a patient referred to in sub-paragraph (2)(*c*) one per visit;

(*d*) in the case of a patient referred to in sub-paragraph (2)(*d*) two per visit.

6. Regulation 4(c) shall not apply to the following visits made to patients undergoing treatment for tuberculosis:—

(*a*) up to two visits per four weeks of any visits under Regulation 5(2)(*a*) to (*c*); and

(*b*) all visits under Regulation 5(2)(*d*).

7. Regulations 4(c) and 5(3) shall not apply to visits made to—

(*a*) a patient not exceeding 15 years of age who has been transferred by the Authority to a hospital in Great Britain for treatment; or

(*b*) a patient liable to be detained under the Mental Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1961(**a**) who has been transferred by the Authority to a hospital in Great Britain under Section 79 of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1960(**b**) or Section 87 of the Mental Health Act 1959(**c**) because suitable accommodation was not available in Northern Ireland.

Provided that the visits are—

(i) certified by the medical officer in charge of the patient's treatment to be essential for the patient's welfare; and

(ii) approved by the Ministry.

8. The amount to be paid to a relative under these Regulations shall not exceed:—

(1) in respect of any one journey made wholly within Northern Ireland, the lowest possible return fare by train, omnibus or boat or any combination thereof;

(**a**) 1961. c. 15.
(**b**) 8 & 9 Eliz. 2. c. 61.
(**c**) 7 & 8 Eliz. 2. c. 72.