Amendment of regulation 12A *of the principal regulations*

2. In regulation 12A(1) and 12A(2)(a) of the principal regulations (special provisions for injury benefit claims) for the words "four weeks", wherever they occur, there shall be substituted the words "thirteen weeks".

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland this 15th day of April, 1965.

(L.S.) *H. A. Lowry,*
Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations increase from four to thirteen weeks the period for which a claim for injury benefit may be made in advance.

1965. No. 79 **[C]**

NATIONAL INSURANCE

Medical Certification

REGULATIONS, DATED 15TH APRIL, 1965, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES UNDER THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1946.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services, in exercise of powers conferred by section 40 of the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland) 1946(**b**), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the National Insurance (Medical Certification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1965, and shall come into operation on 19th April, 1965.

(2) In these regulations—
"the Act" means the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland) 1946;
"the Ministry" means the Ministry of Health and Social Services;
"the determining authority" means an insurance officer, a local tribunal or the Commissioner, as the case may require, appointed or constituted for the purposes of the Act;
"incapacity" means incapacity by reason of which a person is rendered incapable of work;

(**a**) See Schedule 2 to S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1965, No. 12.
(**b**) 1946. c. 23.

"signature" means, in relation to any certificate, the name by which the person giving the certificate is usually known (any name other than the surname being either in full or otherwise indicated) written by that person in his own handwriting; and the expression "signed" shall be construed accordingly.

(3) For the purpose of any provision of these regulations providing that any certificate shall be in a form as set out in Schedule 1 or 2, any reference to such form shall include a reference to any such other form substantially to the like effect as the Ministry may from time to time approve.

Certificates of incapacity and confinement

2.—(1) Every person claiming sickness benefit shall furnish evidence of incapacity, in respect of the day or days for which the claim is made, by means of a certificate given by a registered medical practitioner in accordance with the rules for medical certification set out in Part I of Schedule 1 in the form appropriate to the circumstances of the case, as set out in Part II of that Schedule, or by such other means as the determining authority may accept as sufficient in the circumstances of any particular case or class of cases.

(2) Every woman by whom or on whose behalf a claim for maternity benefit is made shall furnish evidence—

(*a*) where the claim is made in respect of expectation of confinement, that she is pregnant and as to the stage which she has reached in her pregnancy; or

(*b*) where the claim is made by virtue of the fact of confinement, that she has been confined,

by means of a certificate given in accordance with the rules for certification set out in Schedule 2 on the appropriate form as set out in that Schedule, or by such other means as the determining authority may accept as sufficient in the circumstances of any particular case or class of cases; and, for the purposes of this paragraph, the expression "certificate" shall not include a certificate which is given only by the person by whom or on whose behalf the claim is made.

Revocations

3. The regulations specified in Schedule 3 are hereby revoked to the extent mentioned in the third column of that Schedule.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland this 15th day of April, 1965.

(L.S.)

H. A. Lowry,
Assistant Secretary.

SCHEDULE 1 Regulation 2

INCAPACITY

PART I

Rules for Medical Certification

1. In these rules—

"certificate" means a certificate of incapacity;

"claimant" means the person in respect of whom a certificate is given;

"practitioner" means a registered medical practitioner not being the claimant;

"the Board" means the Northern Ireland General Health Services Board constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Health Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1948(a).

2. Every certificate shall be in writing in ink or other indelible substance, and shall contain the following particulars:

(*a*) the claimant's name;

(*b*) the date of the examination on which the certificate is based;

(*c*) a concise statement of the disease or disablement by which the claimant is, in the practitioner's opinion, at the time rendered incapable of work;

(*d*) the date on which the certificate is given;

(*e*) the address of the practitioner;

and shall bear, opposite the words "Doctor's Signature", the signature of the certifying practitioner written after there have been entered on the certificate the claimant's name and a statement of the disease or disablement.

3. The statement of the incapacitating disease or disablement in the certificate shall specify the cause of incapacity as precisely as the practitioner's knowledge of the claimant's condition at the time of the examination permits:

Provided that, if in the practitioner's opinion a disclosure to the claimant of the precise cause would be prejudicial to his well-being, the certificate may contain a less precise statement.

4. Every certificate must have been given on a date not more than one day later than the date of the examination upon which it is based, and no further certificate based on the same examination shall be furnished other than a certificate to replace an original certificate which has been lost or mislaid, but in that case the form shall be clearly marked "duplicate".

5. Where the claimant has been accepted on the list of a practitioner providing general medical services under the Health Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1948, and is being attended by such a practitioner, or is receiving treatment on the advice of such a practitioner at any hospital or similar institution as an out-patient, the certificate shall be on a form supplied by the Board for the purpose and shall be signed by that practitioner.

6. Where the claimant is being attended by any other practitioner the certificate shall be either on a form supplied by the Board, or on such other form substantially to the like effect as the determining authority may accept, and shall be signed by such other practitioner.

(a) 1948. c. 3.

7. Except in any case to which the provisions of rule 11 apply, a certificate shall be furnished in every contribution week during the continuance of the incapacity; but if, subject to the following provisions of these rules,—

(*a*) the claimant having obtained a certificate in the form of a first certificate which relates to incapacity which began on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday of a contribution week, that certificate is furnished in that contribution week or in the next following contribution week; or

(*b*) the claimant having obtained in a contribution week a certificate in the form of a final certificate which specifies the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of the next following contribution week as the date on which, in the opinion of the practitioner, the claimant will become fit to resume work, that certificate is furnished on or before that date;

the provisions of this rule shall, in either case, be deemed to have been complied with in relation to both those contribution weeks.

8. Where the claim is the first claim for sickness benefit made by the claimant after he has become or again become incapable of work, the certificate shall be in the form of a first certificate. If the claimant, in the opinion of the practitioner, will become fit to resume work on a date not later than the end of the third day after the date of the examination to which a first certificate relates, the certificate shall specify the first mentioned date.

9. Where the claim is in respect of a day or days of incapacity immediately following the day or days in respect of which a first certificate has been given, the claimant shall furnish a second certificate, which must have been given at the expiration of not more than 7 days from the date of the first certificate. If, in the opinion of the practitioner, the claimant will become fit to resume work not later than the end of the third day after the date of the examination to which a second certificate relates, that certificate shall be in the form of a final certificate; and otherwise it shall be in the form of an intermediate certificate covering only the period up to and including the date of the examination on which the certificate is based.

10. Where the claim is in respect of a day or days of incapacity after the last day in respect of which a second certificate has been given, the certificate shall, except in any case to which the provisions of rule 11 or 12 apply, be in the form of an intermediate certificate covering only the period up to and including the date of the examination on which the certificate is based.

11. Where the incapacity has continued for not less than 28 days, and the practitioner is satisfied that the incapacity is likely to continue for a long period, the claimant may, unless otherwise directed by the Ministry, furnish a certificate in the form of an intermediate certificate covering the period up to and including the date of the examination on which the certificate is based, and a specified number of weeks thereafter which shall not exceed 13.

12. If at the date of the examination to which a certificate other than a first or second certificate relates the claimant in the opinion of the practitioner will become, not later than the end of the third day after that date, fit to resume work, that certificate shall be in the form of a final certificate.

13. Before resuming work, every claimant shall obtain a certificate specifying the date on which, in the opinion of the practitioner, the claimant will become fit to resume work.