Travelling Expenses of Patients

REGULATIONS, DATED 27TH MARCH, 1951, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNDER SECTION TWENTY-ONE OF THE HEALTH SERVICES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1948.

1951. No. 43

The Ministry of Health and Local Government for Northern Ireland (in these regulations referred to as " the Ministry "), in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section twenty-one of the Health Services Act (Northern Ireland), 1948, hereby makes the following regulations:—

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Health Services (Travelling Expenses of Patients) (Hospital and Specialist Services) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1951, and shall come into operation on the first day of May, 1951.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1921 shall apply for the purpose of the interpretation of these regulations in like manner as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

2. The Health Services (Travelling Expenses of Patients) (Hospital and Specialist Services) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948 (a) are hereby revoked.

3. Subject to the provisions of Regulation 4 of these regulations, the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority (in these regulations referred to as " the Authority ") shall, on request, pay the travelling expenses necessarily incurred or to be incurred by a person (including the travelling expenses of a companion) in attending a hospital or other place approved by the Authority for the purpose of availing himself of hospital and specialist services, if it is determined by such person or body as the Ministry may designate for the purpose that, in the circumstances of the case, the payment of such expenses by the patient would involve hardship :

Provided that :

(*a*) if it is determined as aforesaid that the patient may reasonably be required to bear a part of such expenses the balance only shall be payable by the Authority ; and

(*b*) the travelling expenses of a companion shall not be payable by the Authority if they determine that, having regard to the age or health of the patient or other relevant circumstances, it was unnecessary for the patient to be accompanied.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of Regulation 3 of these regulations, the Authority shall, on request, pay the travelling expenses

(a) S. R. & O. (N.I.), 1948, No. 311.