
D I R E C T I O N S

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1977

**The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Directions
2005**

The Secretary of State for Health makes the following Directions in exercise of the powers conferred under section 17 of the National Health Act 1977(a):

Application, commencement, citation and interpretation

1.—(1) These Directions may be cited as the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Directions 2005.

(2) These Directions are given to Primary Care Trusts in England and shall come into force on 1st December 2005.

(3) In these Directions, “appliance”, “chemist”, “drugs”, “Local Pharmaceutical Committee”, “pharmaceutical list” and “prescription form” have the same meanings given in the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005(b).

Access to forms etc.

2.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (4) a Primary Care Trust shall afford a chemist on its pharmaceutical list reasonable facilities for examining all or any of the prescription forms on which the drugs and appliances provided by him were ordered, together with particulars of the amounts calculated to be payable in respect of such drugs and appliances.

(2) Where following an examination under paragraph (1), the chemist makes objections in relation to the amounts, the Primary Care Trust shall consider the objections, and if justified, it shall take appropriate action to rectify any error.

(3) Subject to sub-paragraph (4) a Primary Care Trust shall also afford the Local Pharmaceutical Committee in its area or any organisation which is, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, representative of the general body of chemists, similar facilities for examining such prescription forms and particulars relating to all or any of the chemists which it represents.

(4) A Primary Care Trust shall only allow access to examine prescription forms in sub-paragraphs (1) and (3), where the chemist, the Local Pharmaceutical Committee or the organisation in question give an appropriate undertaking to comply with the National Health Service Code of Practice(c).

1st December 2005

A member of the Senior Civil Service
Department of Health

(a) 1977 c.49 (“the Act”). Section 17 was substituted by the Health Act 1999 (c.8), section 12(1), and amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2001 (c.15), Schedule 5, paragraph 5(3), and by the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002 (c.17), Schedule 1, paragraph 7.

(b) S.I. 2005/641, as amended by S.I. 2005/1015 and 2005/1501.

(c) Confidentiality: National Health Service Code of Practice published on 7th November 2003, a copy of which can be accessed on <http://www.dh.gov.uk/Publications>