
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

No. R. 484

29 June 2012

MEDICINES AND RELATED SUBSTANCES ACT, 1965**REGULATIONS RELATING TO A TRANSPARENT PRICING SYSTEM FOR
MEDICINES AND SCHEDULED SUBSTANCES: AMENDMENT****(DRAFT DISPENSING FEE FOR PHARMACISTS)**

The Minister of Health has, on recommendation of the Pricing Committee, in terms of section 22G (2) (b) of the Medicine and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965), made the regulations in the Schedule.

In 2011, the Pricing Committee undertook to collect data from pharmacists to inform a structured review of the dispensing fee for the 2012 period (Published guidelines, gazette No. 34468 of 18 July 2011). As of 2nd March 2012, a poor response was received in terms of the expenditure information. Therefore, a determination regarding a revised fee for 2012 could not be conducted. The Pricing Committee therefore recommends that the dispensing fee for pharmacists should be prioritized for review in the following months for the 2013 period. This requires co-operation from pharmacists with regards to supply of relevant information related to dispensing.

Interested persons are requested to submit comments on the proposed regulations within 3 months of publication of this notice to the following address:

The Director-General: National Department of Health

For attention: Director for Pharmaceutical Economic Evaluations Directorate

Room S2610, South Tower

Civitas Building

Corner Andries & Bloed Streets

PRETORIA, 0001

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have such meaning and, unless the context indicates otherwise-

“dispense” means the supply of medicines based on a prescription to a patient or someone on behalf of the patient by a health professional authorized by law to supply medicines and includes-

- (a) the interpretation and evaluation of the prescription;
- (b) the selection, reconstitution, dilution, labelling, recording and the actual supply of the medicine;
- (c) the provision of information and instructions to ensure safe and effective use of a medicine by a patient; or
- (d) the provision of information as contemplated in section 22F (1) (a) of the Act.

“dispensing fee” means a fee determined in terms of these regulations, exclusive of Value Added Tax, that may be charged to dispense a medicine; and

“the Regulations” means the Regulations Relating to the Transparent Pricing System for Medicines and Scheduled Substances published under government Notice No. R1102 of November 2005 as amended.

Amendment of Regulation 10

2. The following regulation is hereby substituted for regulation 10 of the regulations:

“10. (1) The appropriate dispensing fee as contemplated in section 22G (2) (b) of the Act to be charged by pharmacists, must:

(a) Where the single exit price of a medicine or scheduled substance is less than seventy five rand, the dispensing fee shall not exceed R6 plus 46 % of the single exit price in respect of that medicine or scheduled substance;

(b) Where the single exit price of a medicine or scheduled substance is greater than or equal to seventy five rand but less than two hundred rand, the dispensing fee shall not exceed R15.75 plus 33 % of the single exit price in respect of that medicine or scheduled substance;

(c) Where the single exit price of a medicine or scheduled substance is greater than or equal to two hundred rand but less than seven hundred rand, the dispensing fee shall not exceed R51 plus 15 % of the single exit price in respect of that medicine or scheduled substance;

(d) Where the single exit price of a medicine or scheduled substance is greater than or equal to seven hundred rand, the dispensing fee shall not exceed R121 plus 5% of the single exit price in respect of that medicine or scheduled substance.

(2) The provisions of sub-regulation (1) must be reviewed annually by the Minister after taking into account-

(a) the need to ensure the availability and affordability of quality medicines and scheduled substances in the Republic;

(b) annual inflation rates published periodically by Statistics South Africa;

(c) information supplied by pharmacists in accordance with guidelines determined by the Minister from time to time by Notice in the Gazette; and

(d) any other information the Minister may deem necessary to consider.

(3) A pharmacist dispensing a medicine must-

(a) by means of a clearly displayed notice in the pharmacy, inform members of the public using the pharmacy of the maximum fee structure used by such pharmacist to determine the dispensing fee; and

(b) provide an invoice that in respect of each medicine clearly indicates the-

(i) dispensing fee charged; and

(ii) the single exit price;



DR A MOTSOLEDI, MP

MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE:

19/6/2012