



THE ACCIDENT COMPENSATION (GENERAL PRACTITIONERS COSTS) REGULATIONS 1989

PAUL REEVES, Governor-General

ORDER IN COUNCIL

At Wellington this 6th day of November 1989

Present:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL

PURSUANT to section 120 (1) (f) of the Accident Compensation Act 1982, His Excellency the Governor-General, acting by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, hereby makes the following regulations.

REGULATIONS

1. Title and commencement—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Accident Compensation (General Practitioners Costs) Regulations 1989.

(2) These regulations shall come into force on the 1st day of December 1989.

2. Interpretation—(1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,—

“The Act” means the Accident Compensation Act 1982:

“Claimant” means a person who has suffered personal injury by accident to which the Act applies:

“Consultation” means treatment provided by a general practitioner and includes any service performed or treatment provided at any consultation that is not specified in the Schedule to these regulations, and the issue of any certificate to the Corporation as a result of the consultation:

“Corporation” means the Accident Compensation Corporation:

“General practitioner” means any registered medical practitioner working in a non-specialist capacity; and includes any specialist working outside his or her registered speciality:

“Hospital” has the same meaning as in the Hospitals Act 1957:

“Personal injury by accident” means personal injury by accident to which the Act applies:

“Private hospital” means a licensed hospital as defined in section 118 of the Hospitals Act 1957:

“Public hospital” means any hospital that is not a private hospital and is operated by the Crown or an area health board:

“Registered medical practitioner” means any person who holds a current annual practising certificate issued by the Medical Council of New Zealand:

“Social Security benefit” means the general medical services benefit payable under the Social Security Act 1964; and includes any other benefit payable under Part II of that Act or any regulations made under that Act.

(2) No person shall be regarded as acting in the course of employment by the Crown or an area health board by reason of that person being a general practitioner contracted to work in a special area designated as such by the Director-General of Health.

3. Application—Subject to these regulations, these regulations shall apply in respect of any treatment provided on or after the 1st day of December 1989 by a general practitioner to a claimant in respect of personal injury by accident, and shall not apply in respect of any such treatment provided before that date, irrespective of—

- (a) The date on which any fee for any treatment was charged or paid; or
- (b) The date on which the personal injury by accident occurred.

4. Corporation to pay certain costs—(1) Subject to these regulations, the Corporation shall pay in respect of a consultation provided by a general practitioner to any claimant in respect of personal injury by accident the amount that the general practitioner would have charged the claimant if the consultation were one for which the Corporation was not making a payment (less any Social Security benefit), or \$28 (less any Social Security benefit), whichever is the lesser.

(2) In addition to any costs payable in respect of a consultation, the Corporation shall, in respect of any of the treatments specified in the Schedule to these regulations and performed at the consultation, pay the amount that the general practitioner would have charged the claimant if the treatment were one for which the Corporation was not making any payment (less any Social Security payment) or the amount specified in that Schedule in respect of that treatment (less any Social Security benefit), whichever is the lesser.

(3) The Corporation shall not pay any costs unless it has received such information and declarations as it may require in order to verify that the claimant has suffered personal injury by accident and that the treatment in respect of which the claim for payment is made was provided in respect of personal injury by accident.

(4) The costs payable by the Corporation, as required or permitted under these regulations, shall be paid—

- (a) To the general practitioner; or
- (b) If they have already been paid by the claimant, then to the claimant.

5. Second opinions—(1) The Corporation shall decline to make any payment in respect of any treatment that it considers may not be necessary or appropriate or that it considers may have exceeded the number necessary or appropriate in the particular case until it has obtained a second opinion on the matter.

(2) Where the Corporation, after having obtained the second opinion, believes that the treatment was unnecessary or inappropriate it shall decline to make any payment in respect of the treatment and shall advise the claimant and the general practitioner accordingly.

(3) Nothing in this regulation shall apply in any case where the treatment concerned has been provided with the prior approval of the Corporation.

6. Costs not payable in respect of certain treatment—No payment shall be made by the Corporation under these regulations in respect of any treatment provided by a general practitioner—

- (a) In a public hospital; or
- (b) To any claimant as an out-patient of a public hospital; or
- (c) While the general practitioner is acting in the course of employment by the Crown or an area health board.

7. Certificates—The Corporation shall not make any payment under these regulations in respect of any certificate provided to the Corporation by a general practitioner, other than the payment in respect of the consultation that relates to the issue of the certificate.

8. Goods and services tax—All amounts specified or referred to in these regulations are exclusive of goods and services tax.

9. Application of regulations to certificates and treatments provided overseas—Nothing in these regulations shall limit or restrict section 75 (8) of the Act.

SCHEDULE

Reg. 4 (2)

ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS IN RESPECT OF TREATMENTS PROVIDED BY GENERAL
PRACTITIONERS

					\$
1. Clean and debride wound/burn	..	..	..	..	25
2. Suturing (wound up to 5 cm)	..	..	..	..	18
3. (wound greater than 5 cm)	..	..	..	..	28
4. (wound greater than 10 cm)	..	..	..	..	38
Set and plaster/splint fracture					
5. (finger/toe)	..	..	..	..	20
6. (wrist/arm)	..	..	..	..	120
7. (ankle/leg)	..	..	..	..	170
8. Removal of foreign body from eye	..	..	..	..	25
9. Insertion of IV line for transfusion	..	..	..	..	60
10. Intra-articular injection	..	..	..	..	20

MARIE SHROFF,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general effect.

These regulations specify the fee that the Accident Compensation Corporation shall pay in respect of services provided after 1 December 1989 by general practitioners in respect of personal injury by accident.

The Corporation is required to pay the lesser of the general practitioner's normal charge for similar services or \$28 (less in each case the general medical services benefit).

It shall also pay in respect of the services set out in the Schedule the lesser of the general practitioner's normal charge for similar services or the amount specified in the Schedule in respect of the treatment (less in each case any Social Security benefit). These payments are in addition to the payment for the consultation.

By virtue of the Accident Compensation Act 1982 and these regulations, the Corporation is not authorised to make any payment until a claim has been verified, and it is satisfied that the service provided relates to the claim.

The Corporation is prohibited from making payments where the general practitioner is acting in the course of employment of the Crown or an area health board.

All amounts referred to in the regulations are exclusive of goods and services tax.

Payment of the specified amounts (to which goods and services tax will be added) are to be made to the general practitioner concerned, or, if the claimant has already paid the account, then to the claimant.

Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 9 November 1989.

These regulations are administered in the Accident Compensation Corporation.