

1981/54



**THE SOCIAL SECURITY (WIGS AND HAIRPIECES)
REGULATIONS 1981**

DAVID BEATTIE, Governor-General

ORDER IN COUNCIL

At the Government Buildings at Wellington this 16th day of March 1981

Present:

THE RIGHT HON. R. D. MULDOON PRESIDING IN COUNCIL

PURSUANT to the Social Security Act 1964, 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, commencement, and application—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Social Security (Wigs and Hairpieces) Regulations 1981.

(2) These regulations shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of June 1978.

(3) These regulations shall apply in respect of wigs and hairpieces purchased or provided on or after the 1st day of June 1978.

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

“The Act” means the Social Security Act 1964:

“Adult patient” means any person who is entitled to claim the benefits provided by Part II of the Act:

“Child patient” means any child in respect of whom a family benefit is being paid under Part I of the Act or would be paid if the Commission were satisfied that the child is likely to remain permanently in New Zealand:

“Commission” means the Social Security Commission established by the Act:

“Department” means the Department of Health.

3. Benefits—(1) Subject to regulation 4 of these regulations, a sum equivalent to the cost of the wig or hairpiece, but not exceeding \$100, shall be paid by the Department in respect of—

- (a) The initial wig or hairpiece purchased by or provided to any patient:
- (b) A replacement wig or hairpiece to any child patient at intervals of not less than 12 months or such shorter intervals as the Medical Officer of Health of the District in which the child is normally resident considers necessary having regard to the needs of that child.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in subclause (1) of this regulation, any patient may purchase more than one wig or hairpiece, but the benefit payable under these regulations shall be limited to the aggregate cost of them or \$100, whichever is the lesser amount.

4. Conditions of payment—(1) No payment shall be made under these regulations unless the following conditions are complied with:

- (a) The claim for payment shall be made in writing to the Medical Officer of Health of the Health District in which the wig or hairpiece has been supplied to the patient:
- (b) Every such claim shall be accompanied by a certificate from a registered medical practitioner stating the full name and address of the patient (and in the case of a child patient, the age of the patient) and that the patient is suffering from hair loss owing to one or more of the following conditions or treatments:
 - (i) Chemotherapy:
 - (ii) Radiotherapy:
 - (iii) Congenital dystrophy of the skin:
 - (iv) Alopecia areata (severe and long standing):
 - (v) Illness or treatment of illness where baldness is temporary but likely to be prolonged:
 - (vi) Such other medical condition as the registered medical practitioner considers warrants the provision of a wig or hairpiece.

(2) Every such claim shall be endorsed by the Medical Officer of Health who may obtain further independent or specialist reports before giving his endorsement.

(3) Subject to subclause (4) of this regulation, every claim shall be supported by an invoice, account, or receipt signed by or on behalf of the person who supplied the wig or hairpiece.

(4) In any case where a claim is made by the patient, if the Medical Officer of Health is satisfied, on such evidence as he may require, that the patient or, in the case of a child patient, his parent or guardian, has used his best endeavours to obtain the invoice or account and receipt required by subclause (3) of this regulation but is unable to produce one or more of those documents or duplicates of them, he shall pay the patient the amount which he would have been entitled to receive if all the provisions of this regulation had been complied with.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These regulations provide for the payment of a health benefit of up to \$100 for the provision of a wig or hairpiece to patients suffering from hair loss owing to certain conditions or treatments.

Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 19 March 1981.

These regulations are administered in the Department of Health.