



THE SOCIAL SECURITY (LABORATORY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES) REGULATIONS 1981

DAVID BEATTIE, Governor-General

ORDER IN COUNCIL

At the Government House at Wellington this 30th day of November 1981

Present:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL 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.

ANALYSIS

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REGULATIONS

1. Title, commencement, and application—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Social Security (Laboratory Diagnostic Services) Regulations 1981.

(2) These regulations shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of August 1981, and shall apply to laboratory diagnostic services provided on or after that date.

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

“The Act” means the Social Security Act 1964:

“Department” means the Department of Health established under the Health Act 1956:

“Hospital Board” means a Hospital Board under the Hospitals Act 1957:

“Laboratory diagnostic services” means the services more particularly defined in regulation 3 of these regulations:

“Medical Officer of Health” means a Medical Officer of Health under the Health Act 1956:

“Minister” means the Minister of Health:

“Pathologist” includes a “recognised pathologist” (as hereinafter defined), and also includes any other medical practitioner who (being employed or engaged by a Hospital Board) makes any pathological or bacteriological examination for the purposes of these regulations:

“Recognised pathologist” means a medical practitioner who is recognised as a pathologist in accordance with the provisions of these regulations in that behalf.

3. Nature of benefits provided—(1) Except as provided in subclause (2) of this regulation, the benefits provided for by these regulations (hereinafter in these regulations referred to as laboratory diagnostic services) shall comprise—

- (a) The supply of all materials or substances required for the purpose of providing laboratory diagnostic services:
- (b) The provision of medical services incidental to any laboratory diagnostic service, except medical services of a kind that are not ordinarily performed by pathologists as such (whether in any particular case the services are performed by the pathologist or by any other registered medical practitioner):
- (c) The provision of any other incidental services for the purposes of laboratory diagnostic services.

(2) Nothing in these regulations shall apply with respect to laboratory diagnostic services of the following kinds:

- (a) Examination of specimens for public health purposes, unless the necessary laboratory diagnostic services are not available from a public hospital laboratory:
- (b) Post-mortem examinations:
- (c) Laboratory diagnostic services for dental purposes:
- (d) The preparation of sera and vaccines:
- (e) Laboratory diagnostic services rendered in respect of an in-patient of any hospital or other institution under the control of a Hospital Board:
- (f) Laboratory diagnostic services rendered for the sole or primary purpose of obtaining a certificate, for producing to some other person, relating to the condition of health of the person in respect of whom the service was rendered:
- (g) Laboratory diagnostic services rendered for the purposes of life insurance, superannuation, or other similar benefits, unless the services are rendered in respect of certificates given for the purposes of receiving—
 - (i) Benefits under Part I of the Act; or
 - (ii) Sickness benefits from a friendly society:

(h) Laboratory diagnostic services rendered for the purposes of obtaining—

- (i) Immigration permits;
- (ii) Visas issued in New Zealand.

(3) For the purposes of these regulations the expression “specimens for public health purposes” means non-personal specimens, including foods, milk samples, water samples, and rats; and includes such other specimens as the Minister may from time to time declare by notice in the *Gazette* to be specimens for public health purposes.

4. Application of regulations—These regulations shall apply only with respect to such laboratory diagnostic services as satisfy the following conditions:

(a) That they are performed—

(i) By or under the direct supervision of a recognised pathologist; or

(ii) By a bacteriological assistant approved by the Director-General of Health (either generally or in respect of the particular services) under the direct supervision of a medical practitioner employed or engaged by a Hospital Board; or

(iii) By or under the direct supervision of a pathologist or bacteriologist employed or engaged by the Medical School of the University of Otago:

(b) That they are performed on the written recommendation of a medical practitioner other than the pathologist:

Provided that the condition prescribed by this paragraph shall not apply in any case where a recognised pathologist, who is also engaged in medical practice other than as a pathologist, is of opinion, after personal examination of a patient, that it is necessary or advisable in the interests of the patient that the laboratory diagnostic service be performed.

5. Recognition of medical practitioners as pathologists—(1) On application made by any medical practitioner, on a form to be provided for the purpose by the Department, the Minister may recognise the applicant as a pathologist for the purposes of these regulations.

(2) Every such application shall specify the personal qualifications possessed by the applicant by virtue of his academic qualifications and professional experience, and shall also specify, with reasonable particularity, the apparatus or equipment in the possession of the applicant or available for his use in the performance of laboratory work.

(3) Any such application may be sent or delivered to the local Medical Officer of Health for transmission to the Minister.

6. Minister may refuse recognition—(1) The Minister may in his discretion refuse or give recognition as a pathologist under these regulations to any applicant, having regard to—

(a) The personal qualifications of the applicant and the nature of the apparatus and equipment available for his use; and

(b) Any considerations that in the opinion of the Minister would make the recognition of the applicant contrary to the public interest.

(2) Any recognition given by the Minister pursuant to this regulation may be given subject to such conditions (if any), not inconsistent with these regulations, as the Minister may think fit to impose. In particular, every recognition given for the purposes of these regulations shall be subject to the condition that all apparatus and equipment used by the pathologist may be inspected from time to time and at any reasonable time by any person authorised in that behalf by the Director-General of Health.

(3) The Minister may at any time, by not less than 1 month's notice in writing, revoke any recognition given by him under this regulation, or may alter any of the conditions attached by him to any recognition.

(4) Any applicant for recognition as a pathologist under these regulations may withdraw his application at any time before it has been finally dealt with by the Minister, and any person who has been recognised as a pathologist under these regulations shall cease to be so recognised on giving to the Minister not less than 1 month's notice in writing to that effect.

(5) The Minister may from time to time publish, in such manner as he thinks fit, the names and addresses of, and other particulars concerning, persons who for the time being are recognised as pathologists for the purposes of these regulations.

7. Duty of pathologist to keep records—(1) As soon as practicable after the completion of the making of any laboratory examination to which these regulations apply it shall be the duty of the pathologist to make, in duplicate, a written report thereon, and, where the examination was made on the recommendation of another medical practitioner, to forward a copy of his report to that medical practitioner.

(2) A copy of his report shall be retained by the pathologist for a period of not less than 1 year.

(3) At any time during the said period of 1 year the copy of his report retained by the pathologist shall, on request, be produced for the inspection of any medical practitioner who may be authorised in that behalf by the Director-General of Health.

8. Payment of fees for laboratory services—(1) Fees at the rates prescribed in the Schedule hereto shall be payable by the Department in respect of laboratory diagnostic services to which these regulations apply, except where such services are performed by a pathologist employed or engaged by a Hospital Board or are performed by any person under the direct supervision of a pathologist or medical practitioner employed or engaged by a Hospital Board.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in subclause (1) of this regulation, in any case where the medical practitioner on whose recommendation the laboratory diagnostic services are provided has requested that all the tests comprised in any one of the 9 groups listed under the code reference G in the Schedule hereto be performed in respect of a particular patient, the reduced fee prescribed in respect of each such test

shall be payable by the Department, whether or not some other fee in respect of that test is prescribed elsewhere in the said Schedule, and instead of any such other fee.

(3) If any examination for which fees are claimed is not expressly included in the Schedule hereto, the Minister, by a general or specific direction, may determine that the examination shall be deemed for the purposes of these regulations to be within such one of the specified classes as in his opinion is most closely analogous thereto, and fees as for an examination of that class shall be payable accordingly.

9. Payment to recognised pathologists—(1) Where any services to which these regulations apply (not being services to which regulation 10 of these regulations relates) are performed by a recognised pathologist, the amount of the prescribed fees payable under these regulations shall be accepted by the pathologist in full satisfaction of his claims in respect of those services:

Provided that nothing in this subclause shall apply in any case where the patient or a responsible person competent to act on behalf of the patient notifies the pathologist in writing that he does not wish to accept the benefit of the regulations, and in any such case the whole amount of the pathologist's fees may be charged to or on account of the patient, and no fees shall be payable under these regulations.

(2) Every claim by a recognised pathologist under these regulations for the payment of fees shall be made in the first instance to the Medical Officer of Health of the appropriate district, and shall be made on forms to be provided for the purpose by the Department.

(3) All such claims shall be supported in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) In every case the claim shall contain a certificate, signed by the pathologist by whom the service was rendered, that the service to which the claim relates was duly rendered:
- (b) In the case of a claim by a recognised pathologist for services rendered on the recommendation of another medical practitioner, the claim shall state, in addition to the nature of the services rendered, the name of, or particulars which, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, are sufficient to identify, that other medical practitioner, and the pathologist shall retain the recommendation for not less than 1 year, and produce it on demand made within that period to the Medical Officer of Health, or any person authorised by him in that behalf, for the purpose of checking the claim:
- (c) In the case of any other claim by a recognised pathologist, the claim shall contain or be accompanied by a brief statement, signed by the pathologist, setting out his reasons for rendering the services to which the claim relates.

10. Services rendered by Hospital Boards—Subject to section 101 of the Act, no Hospital Board shall demand or accept or be entitled to recover, in consideration of any laboratory diagnostic services to which these regulations apply rendered in respect of a person who is entitled to claim a benefit under these regulations, any payment from that person or any other person.

11. Services rendered by Medical School of University of Otago—Where any services to which these regulations apply are performed by or under the direct supervision of a pathologist or bacteriologist employed or engaged by the Medical School of the University of Otago, fees shall be payable to the Registrar of the University of Otago at the rates prescribed by these regulations, and shall be accepted by the University in full satisfaction of its claims in respect of those services:

Provided that every claim in respect of any services performed at the request or on behalf of a Hospital Board shall be accompanied by a certificate signed by the Secretary of that Hospital Board to the effect that none of the services for which the claim is made is in respect of in-patients of a hospital or other institution under the control of the Board.

12. Revocations—The following regulations are hereby revoked:

- (a) The Social Security (Laboratory Diagnostic Services) Regulations 1946*:
- (b) The Social Security (Laboratory Diagnostic Services) Regulations 1946, Amendment No. 1†:
- (c) The Social Security (Laboratory Diagnostic Services) Regulations 1946, Amendment No. 8‡:
- (d) The Social Security (Laboratory Diagnostic Services) Regulations 1946, Amendment No. 12§:
- (e) The Social Security (Laboratory Diagnostic Services) Regulations 1946, Amendment No. 14||:
- (f) The Social Security (Laboratory Diagnostic Services) Regulations 1946, Amendment No. 15¶:
- (g) The Social Security (Laboratory Diagnostic Services) Regulations 1946, Amendment No. 16**.

*S.R. 1946/24 (Reprinted S.R. 1954/204)

†S.R. 1949/60

‡S.R. 1964/19

§S.R. 1970/96

||S.R. 1972/273

¶S.R. 1981/103

**S.R. 1981/301



SCHEDULE

Reg. 8

HAEMATOLOGY

Code Reference	Title	Fee \$
A.1	Complete blood count (red and white cells, haemoglobin, PCV, differential leucocyte count, and/or blood film)	5.50
A.2	Haemoglobin estimation	1.65
A.3	Red cell count or packed cell volume	1.65
A.4	White cell count, differential white cell count, and/or blood film	2.20
A.5	Blood sedimentation rate	1.10
A.6	Platelet count	2.00
A.7	Bleeding time	0.55
A.8	(a) Thrombin clotting time	1.10
	(b) Clot retraction (semi-quantitative)	0.55
A.9	Blood prothrombin test	3.30
A.10	(a) Red cell fragility	2.20
	(b) Red cell autohaemolysis	4.40
A.11	Reticulocytes, siderocytes, Heinz bodies, etc.	2.00
A.12	L.E. cell test	2.20
A.13	Bone marrow examination	21.95
A.14	Coagulation factor (individual assay)	2.20
A.15	Partial thromboplastin time or kaolin clotting time	2.75
A.16	Red cell or white cell enzymes	2.20
A.17	Chromosome analysis (for Philadelphia chromosome or similar abnormality)	3.30

BLOOD GROUPING

B.1	A.B.O. series	0.55
B.2	Rhesus group	0.55
B.3	Coombs test	1.10
B.4	Rhesus titre	2.20
B.5	Rhesus phenotyping	2.20
B.6	Serum screening for antibodies-antenatal	2.20
B.7	Donath Landsteiner test	1.10

GENERAL BIOCHEMISTRY

C.1	Urea	2.00
C.2	Creatinine	2.00
C.3	Glucose or other sugar (quantitative)	2.00
C.4	Bicarbonate or total CO ₂ (one only)	2.20
C.5	Bile pigments	1.10
C.6	(a) Cholesterol	2.20
	(b) Serum triglycerides and other lipid fractions (each at)	2.20
C.7	Uric acid	2.20

SCHEDULE—*continued*

Code Reference	Title	Fee \$
C.8	Calcium	2.20
C.9	Phosphorus	2.20
C.10	Iron and iron binding capacity	4.40
C.11	Ferritin	5.00
C.12	Chloride	1.65
C.13	Sodium	2.20
C.14	Potassium	2.20
C.15	Acid phosphatase	2.20
C.16	Alkaline phosphatase	2.20
C.17	Amylase	2.00
C.18	Transaminase—	
	(a) AST	2.20
	(b) ALT	2.20
C.19	Similar enzymes (as per specific request)	2.20
C.20	Total proteins (quantitative)	1.10
C.21	Albumin-globulin ratio or electrophoretic pattern of proteins	2.20
C.22	Haemoglobin pigments—	
	(a) Qualitative (including Hams' acid serum test, Schumm's test)	1.10
	(b) Quantitative (including chemical methods of estimating abnormal haemoglobins and hapto-globins)	2.20
C.23	Magnesium	2.20
C.24	Serum vitamin B12	4.40
C.25	Folate level (one only)	4.40
C.26	(a) Fibrinogen (semi-quantitative)	2.20
	(b) Fibrinogen screening	1.10
C.27	Thyroxine (T4)	4.40
C.28	T ₃ I ¹³¹ , resin uptake or equivalent measure of thyroid-binding protein (one only)	2.20
C.29	TSH	5.00
C.30	(a) Immunoglobulins (quantitative)—	
	Per fraction	1.65
	Maximum	4.95
	(b) Immunoelectrophoresis, per patient	2.20
C.31	Serum carotene	2.20
C.32	Cryoglobulins (semi-quantitative)	2.20
C.33	Lithium	2.20
C.34	Blood or urine alcohol for diagnostic purposes (one only)	4.40
C.35	Porphyrins (quantitative)	4.40
C.36	Digoxin	5.50
C.37	Anti-epileptic agents	5.50
C.38	Theophylline	5.00
C.39	Urine 17-ketosteroids	4.40
C.40	Urine adrenocortical steroids	4.40
C.41	Bence-Jones protein in urine	1.10

SCHEDULE—*continued*

Code Reference	Title	Fee s
C.42	Catecholamines (quantitative)	4.40
C.43	Vanilmandelic acid	4.40
C.44	Chorionic gonadotrophin (including pregnancy tests)	4.40
C.45	Urinary amino acid chromatography	2.20
C.46	Hydroxy indolacetic acid	4.40
C.47	Oestriol, plasma/urine (one only)	4.40
C.48	Urinary calculus analysis	2.20
C.49	Faeces fat—	
	(a) Qualitative	0.55
	(b) Quantitative	4.40
C.50	Faeces occult blood	0.55
C.51	Faeces trypsin (quantitative)	1.65

BIOCHEMICAL FUNCTION TESTS

C.52	Urine concentration and dilution tests	1.10
C.53	Creatinine clearance test	2.20
C.54	Xylose absorption test	4.40

BACTERIOLOGY: DIRECT EXAMINATIONS AND CULTURES

D.1	(a) Direct microscopic examination with or without stain (including leucocyte counts in biological fluids)	1.10
	(b) Direct microscopic examination with dark ground illumination	2.20
	(c) Direct microscopic examination after digestion or concentration	2.20
	(d) Routine microscopy of urine including leucocyte count and semi-quantitative chemical analysis	2.50
D.2	Routine primary culture per specimen	2.20
D.3	Special additional cultural procedures (gonococci, diphtheria organisms, anaerobes, etc.)	1.65
D.4	Colony counts by dilution techniques	2.20
D.5	(a) T.B. culture	4.40
	(b) Blood culture	6.60
D.6	Identification of bacterial species from routine culture by—	
	(a) Enzyme or biochemical test—	
	Each test	0.55
	Maximum	2.20
	(b) Serological identification—	
	Each culture-slide method	0.55
	Each culture-tube method	1.10
D.7	(a) Qualitative chemotherapeutic sensitivity test—	
	Each agent	0.55
	Maximum per pathogen	1.65

SCHEDULE—*continued*

Code Reference	Title	Fee \$
	(b) Quantitative (tube or plate dilution) chemotherapeutic sensitivity test—	
	Each agent	1.10
	Maximum per pathogen	3.30
	(c) Special chemotherapeutic tests, e.g., serum assays; patients serum v. own organism; antibiotic combinations	4.40
	(d) Anti-bacterial substances in urine	0.55
D.8	Seminal fluid fertility check	2.20
BACTERIOLOGY: SEROLOGY AND SKIN SENSITIVITY TESTS		
E.1	Mantoux tests—	
	Single test	1.65
	Multiple tests over three, each	0.55
E.2	Skin sensitivity tests	2.20
E.3	Heterophil antibody (Paul-Bunnell)—	
	(a) Screening (slide)	0.55
	(b) Presumptive	1.10
	(c) Presumptive and confirmatory	3.30
E.4	Tests for syphilis and gonorrhoea—	
	(a) Fluorescent treponemal test	3.30
	(b) Complement fixation test	1.10
	(c) Flocculation or precipitation test	0.85
E.5	Tests for hydatids—	
	(a) Hydatid haemagglutination test	2.20
	(b) Hydatid latex test	1.10
	(c) Hydatid complement fixation test	1.10
E.6	Serological test for auto-immune diseases—	
	(a) Screen test	1.10
	(b) Titre	2.20
	(c) Immunofluorescent antigen antibody detection (each)	3.30
E.7	Antistreptococcal antibody—	
	Each antibody	2.20
	Maximum	6.60
E.8	C-reactive protein test	0.55
E.9	(a) Agglutination against organisms such as typhoid group or brucella group—	
	Single organism	1.10
	Maximum	2.20
	(b) Brucella complement fixation test	1.10
E.10	Leptospira agglutination	4.40
E.11	(a) Toxoplasma dye or haemagglutination test	2.20
	(b) Toxoplasma complement fixation test	1.10
	(c) Toxoplasma latex test	1.10
E.12	Other complement fixation tests (psittacosis, etc.)	1.10
E.13	Hepatitis associated antigen	1.10
E.14	Rubella antibodies	2.20

SCHEDULE—*continued*

Code Reference	Title	Fee \$
MORBID HISTOLOGY AND CYTOLOGY		
F.1	Histological examination, per case—	
	(a) Single specimen (minor)	11.00
	(b) Two specimens (intermediate)	21.95
	(c) Three or more specimens (major)	32.95
	(d) Frozen section (extra)	11.00
F.2	Cytological examination—	
	(a) Cervical smears (per case)	4.40
	(b) Other cytological examinations	8.80
F.3	Frozen section and/or smear during surgery	32.95
GROUP TESTS		
G.1	Liver function tests—	
	(a) Bilirubin	0.85
	(b) Alkaline phosphatase	1.75
	(c) AST	1.75
	(d) ALT	1.75
	(e) Protein + electrophoresis	2.65
	(f) GGT	1.75
G.2	Myocardial enzymes—	
	(a) AST	1.75
	(b) LDH	1.75
	(c) CPK	1.75
G.3	Electrolytes—	
	(a) Sodium	2.00
	(b) Potassium	2.00
G.4	Lipid tests—	
	(a) Cholesterol	1.75
	(b) Triglycerides	1.75
G.5	Thyroid function tests—	
	(a) Thyroxine (T ₄)	3.50
	(b) T ₃ resin uptake	1.75
G.6	Antenatal group—	
	(a) Hb	1.30
	(b) PCV	1.30
	(c) Blood film	1.75
	(d) Antibodies	1.75
	(e) ABO	0.40
	(f) Rh blood group	0.40
	(g) WR or other screening test for syphilis	0.85
G.7	Neonatal group—	
	(a) Hb	1.30
	(b) PCV	1.30
	(c) Blood film	1.75
	(d) Coombs	0.85
	(e) Bilirubin	0.85
	(f) ABO	0.40
	(g) Rh blood group	0.40

SCHEDULE—*continued*

Code Reference	Title	Fee S
G.8	Coagulation screen—	
	(a) Complete blood count	4.40
	(b) Platelets	0.40
	(c) Prothrombin estimation	2.60
	(d) PTTK	2.20
	(e) Bleeding time and thrombin clotting time	1.30
G.9	Blood gases—	
	(a) pH	3.00
	(b) pO ₂	3.00
	(c) pCO ₂	3.00

P. G. MILLEN,
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 consolidate and amend the Social Security (Laboratory Diagnostic Services) Regulations 1946 and amendments.

They also prescribe a new scale of fees payable by the Department of Health for laboratory diagnostic services provided on or after 1 August 1981.

Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 3 December 1981.

These regulations are administered in the Department of Health.