



THE SOCIAL SECURITY (CONTACT LENSES) NOTICE 1979

PURSUANT to regulation 4 of the Social Security (Hospital Benefits for Outpatients) Regulations 1947*, the Minister of Health hereby gives the following notice.

NOTICE

1. Title and commencement—(1) This notice may be cited as the Social Security (Contact Lenses) Notice 1979.

(2) This notice shall come into force on the 14th day after the date of its notification in the *Gazette*.

2. Supply of contact lenses—Subject to the provisions of regulation 3 of these regulations, contact lenses may be supplied to outpatients of public hospitals in respect of the following optical disabilities:

- (a) Conical cornea; or
- (b) High myopia; or
- (c) Monocular aphakia.

3. Conditions of supply—Contact lenses shall be supplied in accordance with regulation 2 of these regulations only if—

(a) In every case—

(i) The supply of contact lenses is recommended in the case by an ophthalmologist employed or engaged by a Hospital Board; and

(ii) The lenses are supplied and fitted in accordance with an agreement made between the suppliers and the Minister of Health; and

(b) In the case of a patient suffering from high myopia, the degree of myopia present in the greatest axis of the better eye is not less than—10 diopters:

(c) In the case of a patient suffering from monocular aphakia—

(i) The restoration of binocular vision is, in the opinion of the ophthalmologist, highly desirable by reason of the patient's occupation or other circumstances; and

(ii) The provision of contact lenses is, in the opinion of the ophthalmologist, likely to restore binocular vision and that vision cannot be restored without that provision.

4. Supply for other ocular conditions—Contact lenses may be supplied under the provisions of these regulations in respect of any other ocular conditions which cannot be corrected by ordinary spectacle lenses if—

- (a) The supply of contact lenses is recommended in each case by 2 ophthalmologists, 1 of whom is employed or engaged by a Hospital Board; and
- (b) The lenses are supplied and fitted in accordance with an agreement made between the suppliers and the Minister of Health.

5. Replacement of damaged or lost lenses—If a contact lens supplied under the provisions of these regulations is damaged or lost, one-third of the cost of a replacement lens shall be recoverable from the patient to whom it is supplied.

6. Revocations—The following notices are hereby revoked:

- (a) The Contact Lenses Notices 1963*;
- (b) The Contact Lenses Notices 1963, Amendment No. 1†.

Dated at Wellington this 17th day of September 1979.

GEORGE F. GAIR,
Minister of Health.

*S.R.1963/145
†S.R.1967/44

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This note is not part of the notice, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This notice consolidates and amends the Contact Lenses Notice 1963 and amendment.

The amendment provides that where a contact lens is damaged or lost, one-third of the cost of replacement is recoverable from the patient to whom the lens is supplied. At present, one-fifth of that cost is so recoverable.

Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.
Date of notification in *Gazette*: 27 September 1979.
This notice is administered in the Department of Health.