

---

**CHAPTER 271**

**THE MEDICAL BENEFITS REGULATIONS**

Arrangement of Sections

Section

1. Citation.
  2. Interpretation.
  3. Registration.
  4. Beneficiary not Hospitalised.
  5. Beneficiary Hospitalised.
  6. Beneficiary treated Privately.
  7. Beneficiary treated Abroad.
  8. Fees.
  9. Medical Practitioner to submit Statement.
  10. Payment of Claims and Fees.
  11. Calculation of Cost of Medical Benefits.
  12. Variation of Fees.
  13. Publication of List.
  14. Referees.
  15. Offence.
- FIRST SCHEDULE.  
SECOND SCHEDULE.  
THIRD SCHEDULE.

---

S.R.O. 31/1980.  
S.I. 9/1985.

**THE MEDICAL BENEFITS ACT**

**THE MEDICAL BENEFITS REGULATIONS MADE UNDER  
SECTION 5 OF THE MEDICAL BENEFITS ACT**

---

1. CITATION. These Regulations may be cited as the Medical Benefits Regulations.

2. INTERPRETATION. In these Regulations—

“beneficiary” means—

(a) an insured person who has paid medical benefits contributions in respect of at least twenty six weeks in any calendar year, or any period of twelve months; or

(b) a person certified by a medical practitioner to be suffering from a disease specified in Part I of the First Schedule; or

(c) a person who is rendered permanently incapable of work by virtue of age; or

(d) a young person under sixteen years;

provided that in the case of paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) such person is born in Antigua and Barbuda or is ordinarily resident in Antigua and Barbuda;

“Board” means the Medical Benefits Board of Control;

“insured” means insured under the Social Security Act;

“medical benefits” means the supply of medical or surgical care and services and includes hospitalisation, drugs, laboratory tests, X-rays, electrocardiography tests or similar services;

“medical practitioner” means a registered medical practitioner approved by the Minister and whether such practitioner—

(a) is employed by Government and carries on a private practice; or

(b) is engaged solely in private practice.

3. REGISTRATION. (1) Every beneficiary shall be registered and issued a medical scheme registration card by the Superintendent in such form as the Minister may by notice published in the *Gazette* prescribe.

(2) An application for medical benefits shall be made by presentation of such card to the medical practitioner whose services the applicant seeks.

(3) A person who obtains medical benefits by means of a medical scheme registration card which is false in any material particular or by

any other means shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars.

**4. BENEFICIARY NOT HOSPITALISED.** (1) A beneficiary who is suffering from a disease specified in Part I of the First Schedule shall receive free medical benefits at such place and time as the Minister shall by notice published in the *Gazette* appoint.

(2) Every beneficiary is entitled to the medical benefits specified in Part II of the First Schedule.

**5. BENEFICIARY HOSPITALISED.** (1) A beneficiary who is treated in the general ward of the Holberton Hospital for any disease is entitled to free medical benefits.

(2) A beneficiary who is treated in a semi-private or private ward of the Holberton Hospital for any disease is entitled to free medical benefits except for the payment of maintenance fees for the occupancy of the said ward which shall be paid—

(a) by the beneficiary in accordance with the Holberton Hospital (Fees) Rules; and

(b) by the Scheme in accordance with regulation 10(1).

**6. BENEFICIARY TREATED PRIVATELY.** A beneficiary who is treated in a private place or private institution in Antigua and Barbuda for any disease, is entitled to the same medical benefits as if he were treated in the Holberton Hospital, except for the payment of maintenance fees, and the calculation of such medical benefits shall be made in accordance with regulation 11.

**7. BENEFICIARY TREATED ABROAD.** A beneficiary who is treated outside Antigua and Barbuda for any illness shall, with the approval of the Chief Medical Officer, be entitled to be paid for medical benefits supplied not exceeding five hundred dollars, as the Chief Medical Officer may certify to the Board.

**8. FEES.** (1) A medical practitioner who treats a beneficiary under regulation 4 (1) in his private capacity either—

(a) at his office; or

(b) by making a house call,

is entitled to the fee specified in the Second Schedule but no fee shall be paid—

- (i) in excess of ten office visits and five house calls in respect of that beneficiary within a period of twenty-six calendar weeks; or
- (ii) for the treatment of a beneficiary, except for the making of house calls, who otherwise would have received free medical treatment under the Medical and Holberton Hospital Institution Act.

(2) A consultant who treats a beneficiary under regulation 4 (1) is entitled to the fee specified in the Second Schedule only if the beneficiary is referred to him by a medical practitioner, but no fee shall be paid in excess of his office visits and two house calls in respect of that beneficiary within a period of twenty-six calendar weeks.

(3) A medical specialist who performs surgery on a beneficiary in his private capacity at a recognised hospital is entitled to the fee specified in the Second Schedule:

Provided that where the operation is performed at a Government Hospital the specialist shall be paid from the funds of the Scheme no more than three quarters of the fees specified in the Second Schedule.

(4) For the purposes of these Regulations surgery is classified in the manner specified in the Third Schedule.

**9. MEDICAL PRACTITIONER TO SUBMIT STATEMENT.** (1) A medical practitioner or consultant who treats a beneficiary under regulation 8 shall submit a monthly statement to the Superintendent in such form as the Minister may prescribe.

(2) The Superintendent on receipt thereof shall examine the statement and if satisfied as to its correctness shall forward the statement to the Board for its authorisation.

(3) The Board shall examine or cause the statement to be examined and issue such directions to the Superintendent as it may consider necessary.

**10. PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND FEES.** (1) The fees due and payable on behalf of every beneficiary by the Scheme in respect of his accommodation and maintenance at the Holberton Hospital or Government Institu-

tion under regulation 5 shall be at such rates as the Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, prescribe.

(2) All sums due and payable to a beneficiary for medical benefits supplied under regulation 6 shall be made to that beneficiary from the funds of the Scheme.

(3) The fees due and payable to a medical practitioner for medical benefits supplied to a beneficiary under regulation 8 shall be paid to that medical practitioner from the funds of the scheme.

(4) All sums due and payable for medical benefits supplied by the Holberton Hospital, Government Institution or prescribed place under these regulations shall be paid from the funds of the Scheme into the Consolidated Fund.

(5) Any payment made by a beneficiary for the purchase of drugs which he would have received free by virtue of these regulations shall be reimbursed to him upon the authorisation of the Board out of the funds of the Scheme on the presentation of proper receipts:

Provided that such drugs were at the time not available at the prescribed place.

**11. CALCULATION OF COST OF MEDICAL BENEFITS.** The cost of medical benefits supplied to a beneficiary at the Holberton Hospital, Government Institution or prescribed place shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Holberton Hospital (Fees) Rules.

**12. VARIATION OF FEES.** The Minister may by notice in the *Gazette*, vary the fees specified in the Second Schedule.

**13. PUBLICATION OF LIST.** For the purposes of regulation 4 (1) the Minister shall publish in the *Gazette* from time to time a list of medical practitioners and the places and times whereat beneficiaries may attend.

**14. REFEREES.** Whenever any dispute or question arises—

(a) as to whether or not a person is suffering from a disease specified in Part I of the First Schedule; or

(b) on any other matter under these regulations,  
the Minister may appoint as referees—

- 
- (i) one or more medical practitioners for the purposes of paragraph (a); or
- (ii) two or more persons for the purposes of paragraph (b),
- for the determination of such dispute or question and such determination shall be final and conclusive for the purposes of these regulations.

**15. OFFENCE.** A person who gives or sells drugs prescribed or obtained under the Medical Benefits Scheme to any person for whom it was not prescribed shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars.

Made this 12th day of November, 1980.

---

FIRST SCHEDULE

r.4

PART I

- (a) Hypertension
- (b) Diabetes
- (c) Cardiovascular Diseases
- (d) Sickle-Cell Anaemia
- (e) Cancer
- (f) Leprosy
- (g) Certified Lunacy
- (h) Glaucoma

PART II

X-rays  
Electrocardiography  
Laboratory tests

---

## SECOND SCHEDULE

r.8

## FEES

## MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

|                      |       |       |          |
|----------------------|-------|-------|----------|
| For one office visit | ..... | ..... | \$ 10.00 |
| For one house visit  | ..... | ..... | \$ 20.00 |

GENERAL  
CONSULTANT

|                      |       |       |          |
|----------------------|-------|-------|----------|
| For one office visit | ..... | ..... | \$ 20.00 |
| For one house visit  | ..... | ..... | \$ 30.00 |

## MEDICAL SPECIALIST

## OPERATING FEES

|           |       |       |          |
|-----------|-------|-------|----------|
| Class I   | ..... | ..... | \$125.00 |
| Class II  | ..... | ..... | \$200.00 |
| Class III | ..... | ..... | \$300.00 |
| Class IV  | ..... | ..... | \$375.00 |
| Class V   | ..... | ..... | \$450.00 |
| Class VI  | ..... | ..... | \$550.00 |

r.8

THIRD SCHEDULE  
CLASSIFICATION OF SURGERY

| CLASS I — \$125                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | CLASS II — \$200                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | CLASS III — \$300                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Abscess Drainage — small<br>Bartholin's Cyst Removal<br>Burase — Ganglion Excision<br>Circumcision — Child<br>Cystoscopy<br>Cystotomy — suprapubic<br>Dislocation — simple — upper limb<br>Lipoma Excision<br>Lumbar Puncture<br>Keloid Excision — small<br>Nail Extraction<br>Paracentesis<br>P.O.P. application<br>Rectal Dilation<br>Removal of Eyelashes — two lids<br>Retrobulbar Injections<br>Sebaceous Cyst Removal<br>Signoidoscopy<br>Subconjunctival Injections<br>Urethral Dilation<br>Vasectomy | Abscess Drainage — Large<br>Amputation — digit<br>Breast Biopsy<br>Circumcision — Adult<br>Cystoscopy & Retrograde<br>Catheterisation<br>Dilation & curettage<br>Dislocation — compound<br>— upper limb<br>— simple — lower limb<br>Fistula — in — Ano Excision<br>Gastroscopy<br>Keloid Excision — large<br>Orchidectomy — unilateral<br>Skin Graft — small<br>Tendon Repair — primary — three<br>or less<br>Tonsilectomy/Adenoidectomy — Child<br>Tubal Ligation<br>Uterine Suspension<br>Varicocoele | Amputation — below shoulder<br>— lower limb<br>Appendectomy<br>Caution of Cornea — Phenol<br>Colostomy<br>Conjunctiva Repair<br>Conjunctiva Excision<br>Drainage of Chalazion<br>Electro-Convulsive Therapy (course of six)<br>Excision of Pterygium<br>Fractures — compound-uncomplicated-<br>suture<br>Haemorrhoidectomy<br>Hernia Repair — femoral — inguinal<br>— umbilical<br>Hydrocoelectomy<br>Oophorectomy — bilateral<br>Orchidectomy — bilateral<br>Orchidopexy<br>Ramstedt<br>Salpingectomy<br>Shirodhar Suture<br>Skin Graft — large<br>Tendon Repair — primary — more than three<br>— secondary<br>Testicular Torison Fixation<br>Tonsilectomy — Adult<br>Trachesotomy<br>Vein Stripping & Ligation — single<br>Vulvectomy |

## THIRD SCHEDULE

## CLASSIFICATION OF SURGERY (cont.)

| CLASS IV — \$375                        | CLASS V — \$450                             | CLASS VI — \$550                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Caesarian Section                       | Bowel Resection — small                     | Abdominal Perineal Resection                                      |
| Cystectomy — partial                    | Cataract Surgery — without lens implant     | Bowel Resection — large                                           |
| Cystolithotomy                          | Cholecystectomy                             | Cataract Extraction with Intraocular Lens Implant                 |
| Ectopic Pregnancy                       | Correction Squint                           | Cholecystectomy with Exploration of Common Duct                   |
| Fracture — open reduction               | Dacryocystostomy                            | Graniotomy                                                        |
| Hernia Repair — inguinal — bilateral    | Gastro-enterostomy                          | Fracture — Open reduction-hip                                     |
| — Adult                                 | Glaucoma Operative Treatment                | Parotidectomy                                                     |
| — femoral — bilateral                   | Hysterectomy                                | Repair of Laceration Eye-involving outer coats, lens and vitreous |
| — Adult                                 | Intra-ocular Foreign Body removal           | Retinal Detachment.                                               |
| Laparotomy                              | Nephrectomy Prostatectomy                   |                                                                   |
| Mastectomy — simple                     | Rectovaginal/vesicle Fistula                |                                                                   |
| Nephrolithotomy                         | Repair                                      |                                                                   |
| Paracentesis of Anterior Chamber Eye    | Removal of Eye                              |                                                                   |
| Peripheal Iridectomy of Glaucoma        | Removal of Lacrimal Sac                     |                                                                   |
| Reconstruction of Eyelid                | Repair of Injured Eye Involving Lens Injury |                                                                   |
| Repair of Corneal Laceration            | Trabeculectomy or Other Drainage Eye        |                                                                   |
| Sympatnectomy                           | Thyroidectomy Subtotal                      |                                                                   |
| Tendon Graft                            | Ulcer Gastro-duodenal Perforation           |                                                                   |
| Splenectomy                             | Vagotomy & Phloroplasty                     |                                                                   |
| Thyroid Adenoma Excision                |                                             |                                                                   |
| Vein Stripping & Litigation — bilateral |                                             |                                                                   |