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Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, 5th September, 1906.

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HIS Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to approve the following revised Regulations for the Collection of Fees due by Patients in Government Hospitals.

F. D. NORTH,
Under Secretary.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

COLLECTION OF HOSPITAL FEES.

REGULATIONS.

(Revised July, 1906.)

INTRODUCTORY.

The following Regulations are issued for the guidance of Medical Officers, Secretaries, Matrons, and other persons appointed by the Governor in Council to deal with the collection of Hospital fees, and who, by virtue of their appointment, become subject to the operation of "The Audit Act, 1904," and the Regulations thereunder.

The following clauses of the Medical Department Rules and Regulations, approved by the Governor in Council, 26th October, 1899 (C.S.O. 881/99), namely, Clauses 30, 31, 32, 33, 118, 123, 124, and 125, and Clause 142 (in so far as it relates to returns of fees received and outstanding), and the "Instructions in regard to collection of Hospital fees," dated 20th August, 1904, are hereby cancelled.

ADMISSION.

1. Every patient admitted into Hospital shall have his or her name entered in the Admission and Discharge Book, and in the Fees and Donations Ledger. The consecutive number given to the patient in the former of the above-named books is *also to be entered* in the latter, and the financial circumstances of a patient are not to be considered. (For full instructions with regard to the Fees and Donations Ledger; see Regulation 23.)

A patient shall not be required to sign any guarantee to pay, or other form, upon *admission* to hospital; the fact of his accepting treatment in the Government Institution sufficiently establishing his indebtedness. He should, however, as early as his state of health renders it advisable, be informed of the rate which will be charged during his stay in Hospital.

SCALE OF CHARGES.

2. The scale of charges for ordinary patients shall be exhibited on a painted board at the entrance to the Hospital.

This scale may be altered from time to time, but until further order it will continue to be six shillings per diem.

ADMISSION OF PRIVATE CASES INTO HOSPITAL.

3. In towns where there is no Private Hospital, cases may occasionally arise where it would be highly advantageous to persons of means to be treated in the District Hospital. In such a case there will be no objection (pro-

vided there are beds available) to the District Medical Officer entering into arrangements with the patient with a view to his being professionally treated as a private patient in the general wards; but such a case must be fully reported on, and a copy of the agreement entered into between the District Medical Officer and the patient, signed by the latter, must be forwarded to the Principal Medical Officer, by whom it will be kept as a record. *Vide* Circular No. 120, dated 14th January, 1905.

DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL.

4. Upon discharging a patient, it shall be decided by the District Medical Officer or Matron whether such patient is in indigent circumstances or not. This shall not be left to the patient; and no person who will, in the opinion of the Hospital Officials, be able to resume his or her occupation after convalescence ceases shall be allowed to sign an Indigent Declaration. The latter shall only be used in special cases referred to hereafter (Regulation 8.)

FORM "H" TO BE SIGNED.

5. All patients other than indigents shall be required to sign Form "H" (*vide* printed book of agreements). The Hospital Official concerned shall make due inquiry of the patient as to his circumstances, and shall decide the terms to be agreed upon. Form "H" shall then be filled in, the patient signing the "Collector's copy." The patient's copy shall be handed to the patient, as a reminder when instalments become due.

The Collector's copy shall be handed to the Collector at the earliest possible opportunity, and the fact recorded on the butt of the book, in the space provided.

In fixing the date of first instalment, due consideration must be given to the probable length of convalescent period, and the state of the labour market.

The attention of patients should be drawn to the footnote upon the triplicate handed to them.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

6. If a patient signs an agreement to pay by instalments, as his prospects will allow, and before an instalment becomes due he leaves the district, without either notifying the Collector or District Medical Officer, he *may* escape payment, but he will run the risk, if afterwards his whereabouts are discovered, of being treated without consideration; since he has, by changing his address without notification, sought to evade his debt.



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