

See HCN 173

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE No. 54 of 1930.

It is hereby notified for general information that His Excellency the High Commissioner has been pleased to approve the subjoined Regulations and Conditions governing the Duties of Officers of the Medical Service and the conduct of Hospital and Dispensary Practice throughout the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and of the Scale of Fees and other Charges for attendance by Government Medical Officers upon all Europeans, bona-fide residents therein.

The Regulations published under High Commissioner's Notice No. 151 of 1928 are hereby cancelled.

and other
HCN 173/4

By Command of His Excellency the High Commissioner.

See H.C.A.

SHIRLEY EALES,
Acting Imperial Secretary.

High Commissioner's Office,
Capetown, 28th May, 1930.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE MEDICAL SERVICE REGULATIONS.

1. The appointment of medical officers is a whole-time one, and any private work or other appointment that they may be allowed to assume will be subordinate to their Government duties.

2. The official duties of a medical officer comprise—

- (a) professional attendance on all Bechuanaland Protectorate Government officials and employees and their wives and children;
- (b) attendance to native out-patients as laid down in paragraph 6.
- (c) carrying out the medico-legal work of his district in collaboration with the senior administrative officer of the district;
- (d) administering the Government hospital on his station;
- (e) investigating and dealing with outbreaks of infectious diseases;
- (f) advising the administrative officers of the district on questions of public health and sanitation;
- (g) inspection of gaols and prisoners in accordance with Prison Regulations published under High Commissioner's Notice No. 99 of 1927;
- (h) carrying out such other instructions and duties as may be required of him by the principal medical officer.

3. Medical officers will co-operate with the senior administrative officer of the district to which they are posted, and should accordingly notify him when they have to be absent from their station, informing him, if possible, where they may be found in case of emergency and the probable time of their return to the station; and should the medical officer's absence be prolonged from any special or unforeseen cause he will, where possible, keep the said administrative officer informed of his movements.

4. During the absence of a medical officer from his station, the sister in charge of the hospital, where such exists, or, when the sister is not available, the European dispenser shall attend any accident or emergency work that may arise, and these officials shall accordingly not both absent themselves from the station at the same time as the medical officer.

5. All applications for leave shall be made in accordance with the Bechuanaland Protectorate Public Service Regulations, High Commissioner's Notice No. 145 of 1925, through the principal medical officer.

6. Government Native Dispensaries and Out-patients' Departments will be conducted under the following Regulations:—

- (a) Dispensaries will be opened daily, except on Sundays, public holidays, and such other days as may be impracticable owing to the unavoidable absence of the medical officer.
- (b) the hours of attendance shall be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the districts where there is a hospital the time occupied by the medical officer in hospital should, when necessary, be carried over to the hours 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m., provided the patients have presented themselves before 1 p.m. on that day.
- (c) The above regulations not to apply in cases of accident or serious emergency illness. These shall be attended to as soon as possible.
- (d) All native out-patients, bona fide residents of the Protectorate, presenting themselves during the dispensary hours as laid down above, shall be charged 1s. for advice, medicines or dressings. This charge shall be applied alike for first and for subsequent attendances and an official receipt shall be given for each payment so connected. They shall provide their own bottles for medicine.
- (e) Permanent Government native employees and their wives and children, and prisoners, shall be given free treatment at the dispensary, provided they produce a sick report or sick card signed by the local head of their department showing the names of those entitled to free treatment (*vide* Bechuanaland Protectorate Regulations, High Commissioner's Notice No. 145 of 1925, Chapter V). Prisoners' sick reports shall be signed by the gaoler.
- (f) Native out-patients suffering from leprosy and venereal disease shall be treated free except for the requisite bottle for medicine.
- (g) Out-patients claiming to be paupers shall produce to the medical officer a certificate of poverty from their chief or headman, countersigned by the magistrate, before receiving free treatment.
- (h) All fees obtained from out-patients shall be paid monthly, or more frequently when necessary, to the resident magistrate by the medical officer, and a receipt obtained by the latter.

7. The following shall be the regulations for the administration of the Government hospitals:—

- (a) The medical officer will be responsible for the general administration and discipline of the hospital, and keeping of all such records as the principal medical officer may require, the treatment of all patients, the accountability of the hospital, and the revenue from in-patients, also for all equipment and stores on his charge.
- (b) the sister in charge will be responsible to the medical officer for the internal economy of the hospital, the nursing and feeding of patients, and all domestic matters connected therewith.
- (c) Patients will be admitted to hospital by the medical officer in charge, and, in his temporary absence, by the sister in charge.
- (d) Records of all patients admitted to hospital and all operations performed will be kept by the sister in charge in the books provided for the purpose.

(e) In cases where deaths have occurred and there are no relatives to undertake burial, the medical officer shall inform the resident magistrate, who will arrange for burial.

(f) the following charges shall be made—

- (1) All native in-patients, bona fide residents of the Protectorate, will be treated free of all charges whatsoever, except for such surgical apparatus as they may require after being discharged from hospital, e.g., crutches, artificial limbs, spectacles, etc.
- (2) Native in-patients not resident in the Protectorate shall be charged a maintenance fee of 1s. 6d. per diem, and such charges as the medical officer may make for medical or surgical treatment, and appliances as in terms of the last paragraph.
- (3) European and Asiatic in-patients resident in the Protectorate shall be charged 12s. 6d. per diem and such fees as the medical officer shall be entitled to make for medical or surgical treatment. Where such in-patients plead inability to meet these charges, the maintenance fees may be remitted in part or in whole by the Resident Commissioner. The medical officer will likewise reduce his fee in the same proportion. Children under 14 years will pay half of the above maintenance charges.
- (4) European in-patients non-resident in the Protectorate shall be charged 15s. per diem for maintenance and such fees as the medical officer shall charge for his services.
- (5) European officials, in respect of themselves and their wives and children, shall be charged for their hospital maintenance at the following rates, based on the salary of the official:—

	<i>Per Day.</i>
	s. d.
(a) Those in receipt of £550 per annum or more	5 0
(b) Those in receipt of £360 to £550 per annum	3 6
(c) Those in receipt of less than £360 per annum	2 6
Children under 14, half of what their parents would pay.	

- (6) A charge shall be made to Europeans and Asiatics for the use of the theatre—£1 for major operations and 10s. for minor operations.
- (7) The medical officer shall hand over to the resident magistrate each month such in-patient fees as he shall collect, and shall obtain a receipt for the amounts, and he shall render monthly to the principal medical officer a return showing in-patient fees paid or not paid.
- (8) The sister in charge shall keep a record of all alcoholic stimulants used. Stimulants used in cases of emergency will not be charged for, but when wines and spirits have been supplied as an adjunct to other treatment, and in all circumstances when champagne has been supplied, these shall be paid for by the patient.

7. (f) (10) A charge of 1s. per mile shall be made throughout the Territory for the use of the Government motor ambulances.

In the case of lunatics who are merely a nuisance to the public, the relatives or chief shall be required to care for them, and if it is desired that they be sent to a mental hospital outside the territory, the chief or relatives shall be required to undertake to provide for their maintenance.

9. Medical officers will be allowed to use Government drugs in their private work and shall pay 1s. as a drug refund for each prescription made up and supplied to private patients. Where surgical dressings are used, each dressing shall count as a prescription and be paid for accordingly.

10. A confidential register shall be kept in the dispensary showing all prescriptions dispensed to European and Asiatic patients, whether officials and their families or private patients, which register may be examined by the principal medical officer.

11. Generally, the following scale of charges for private practice among Europeans and natives, bona fide residents of the Protectorate, is recommended as a guide, except in the case of patients who are obviously either well-to-do or very poor:—

(a) *Europeans and Asiatics.*

Consultation fee either at the patient's home
or at the medical officer's consulting room £0 7 6
Consultation with another medical practi-
tioner 1 0 0

Travelling mileage rate of 1s. a mile and 10s. an hour for the time occupied in going to and returning from the patient's home; where a medical officer is supplied with transport no charge for mileage. If the medical officer is detained at the patient's house, he may, subject to what is stated in the following paragraph, charge a detention fee of 10s. an hour, with a maximum charge of £3 for twenty-four hours or part thereof. No charge for detention should be made for any operation, confinement, or any other medical service for which a special fee may be charged.

Night work between the hours 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. may be charged for at double the ordinary rate.

Normal confinements, fee £5, to include ordinary after attendance. Where any complications have to be dealt with, the fee may be increased in accordance with the severity of the interference.

Operations in ordinary cases:—

Major operations from £15 15 0
Minor operations from 1 1 0
For detailed charges see Appendix (A).
Anaesthetics for major operations 2 2 0
Anaesthetics for minor operations 1 1 0

Where a patient claims to be indigent, he will produce to the medical officer a certificate to that effect obtained from the resident magistrate, in which case the medical officer will remit the fees in part or in whole, according to the circumstances of the case.

Should the medical officer, at the request of the resident magistrate, be required to travel to see a pauper patient, he will make no charge for his services, but shall be entitled to the authorized Government motor mileage allowance.

(b) *Natives.*

For consultation after dispensary hours £0 5 0
and the same amount for a visit to the patient's home.

In cases where the medical officer has to travel over one mile, he shall be entitled to charge 1s. a mile and 5s. an hour for the time occupied in travelling to and from the patient's home, in addition to the above 5s. fee.

Confinement fees should not exceed £3 in addition to the charges for travelling indicated above.

Operations: No charge will be made to natives, bona fide residents in the Protectorate, for any surgical operations performed at the dispensary or hospital.

In the case of patients non-resident in the Protectorate, medical officers are not bound by any of the above scales of fees, and will make their own terms with the patient.

12. All cases of dispute or doubt as to the fees that a medical officer has charged, or may charge, will be referred to the principal medical officer for his advice and decision.

13. Members of the nursing staff and dispensers shall not be permitted to undertake any private practice or to make any charge whatsoever for their services, and when they have to travel on unofficial duty they will be entitled to transport and reasonable out-of-pocket travelling expenses, payable by the patient.

APPENDIX "A."

SCALE OF OPERATION FEES FOR PRIVATE PRACTICE.

Injections, intravenous	£1 1 0
Catheterisation	0 10 6
Dilation of strictures	1 1 0
	each sitting.
Reduction of dislocations and setting of fractures	£2 2 0
	to
	5 5 0
<i>Minor Operations.</i>	
Tonsils and adenoids	5 5 0
Circumcisions	3 3 0
Circumcisions in infants	2 2 0
Curettage	5 5 0
Amputations, digits	3 3 0
Stitching wounds	1 1 0
	to
	2 2 0
Removal of superficial tumours	1 1 0
	to
	3 3 0
Empyema	10 10 0
Haemorrhoids—Excision	10 10 0
Haemorrhoids—Injections	1 1 0
	each injection.
<i>Major Operations</i> from	£15 15 0
upwards, according to the accepted gravity of the operation and the circumstances of the patient on a basis of annual income.	