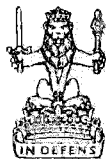


H. &amp; W.S. 26/1968



## SCOTTISH HOME &amp; HEALTH DEPARTMENT

York Buildings, Queen Street, EDINBURGH, 2

Telephone: [REDACTED]

27th September, 1968.

Our reference: Y/DIN/3/3A  
 Y/DIN/3/9  
 Your reference: Y/DIN/3/10

Health and Welfare Services Circular No. 26/1968

Sir,

Notification of Infective Jaundice and Measles

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State to enclose a copy of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases)(Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1968 which come into operation on 1st October, 1968. The purpose of the amending regulations is to introduce the notification of cases of infective jaundice and measles and to introduce a revised fee of five shillings for notifications of notifiable diseases and food poisoning sent by medical practitioners to the appropriate Medical Officer of Health.

2. Infective Jaundice

A form of infective jaundice known as spirochaetosis ictero-haemorrhagica is already a notifiable disease in Scotland under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations (Scotland) 1932. In addition, viral infectious hepatitis has been made locally notifiable in the Eastern Regional Hospital Board area by Orders under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889, in order to facilitate a study of the epidemiology of the disease in the area. The general notification of infective jaundice which is now introduced in all its forms, will assist Medical Officers of Health to obtain more precise information about the incidence of the disease and the circumstances in which it is spread. It may also be useful for inquiries into the transmission of jaundice through the use of contaminated syringes and needles for drug injections, upon which attention has been focussed recently in several countries.

3. Notification of infective jaundice will therefore not only give an indication of its incidence, but also bring to light outbreaks of the disease which may occur through the use of contaminated syringes and needles; and it will pinpoint sporadic and more general outbreaks so that their further extension may be controlled.

4. Measles

Measles has not been a generally notifiable disease in Scotland, although it is in England and Wales, and it has not been possible therefore to determine accurately the incidence of the disease in Scotland. It has not hitherto been thought necessary to make measles a notifiable disease in Scotland, as notification would have provided little useful information, but with the introduction this year of routine vaccination against measles, general notification of cases of measles will provide a means of making some assessments nationally and locally of the results of vaccination.

5. Revised Fee for Notifications

Section 74 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, which came into operation on 9th September, 1968, repealed a provision of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889 which fixed the amount of fee payable by local authorities to medical practitioners for the notification of infectious diseases. (Paragraph 47 of H. & W.S. Circular No. 21/1968 of 30th August refers).

County Clerks  
 Town Clerks (Large Burghs)

/After

After consultation with the local authority associations and other interested bodies the Secretary of State has agreed to increase, as from 1st October, 1968, the fee to a unified amount of five shillings to replace the fees specified in the first paragraph of regulation 10(1) of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations (Scotland) 1932. The new fee also applies to notifications of food poisoning under section 22(1) of the Food and Drugs (Scotland) Act 1956. A similar fee is also being brought into operation at the same time in England and Wales.

6. The Secretary of State has accordingly made the Public Health (Infectious Diseases)(Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1968 and from their date of operation infective jaundice and measles will become generally notifiable in Scotland.

7. The Chief Medical Officer wishes all doctors to receive the enclosed letter explaining the reasons for, and scope of, the regulations. For this purpose sufficient copies of the letter are being sent under separate cover to Medical Officers of Health for distribution to general medical practitioners in their areas.

8. Copies of this circular and of the regulations are enclosed for the Medical Officer of Health. Copies are also being sent to the Regional Hospital Boards, Executive Councils and Local Medical Committees. Additional copies of the regulations may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office, 13A Castle Street, Edinburgh, 2 or through any bookseller.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

*E. J. Wall*  
for (J. B. HUME)