

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FEES : SOUTHERN RHODESIA

The Southern Rhodesian Government has, after consultation with the Mashonaland and Matabelands Branches of the British Medical Association prescribed the following scale of fees for medical aid to workmen (Southern Rhodesia Government Notice No. 169 of 1955).

Visits and Examinations: Per visit, 15s.

Consultations: One doctor with another, £3 3s.

Assistance at Major Operations: 10% of the surgeon's scheduled fee with a minimum of £3 3s.

Simple Wounds: (a) Without suture of wound, £1 1s. per attendance, with maximum of £3 3s. (b) With suture of wound, £3 3s.

Suture of Tendons or Nerves: (a) (i) Suture of single tendon (simple), £12 12s. Each additional tendon, £3 3s. (ii) Repair of flexor tendon of fingers and tendo achilles, £26 5s. (b) (i) Suture of single nerve, £18 18s. Each additional nerve, £5 5s. (ii) Transplantation or extensive dissection to mobilize nerve, £26 5s.

Treatment of Abscesses: Superficial abscess, £1 1s. per visit, with a maximum of £4 4s.

Treatment of Infections of Hand, etc.: (a) Pulp space infection, £6 6s. (b) Suppuration of tendon sheaths, or (c) in thenar, mid-palmer or forearm spaces, primary or secondary, £12 12s. (d) Compound deep forearm suppuration, £23 12s. 6d.

Removal of Bursa, £4 4s.

Removal of Foreign Bodies (other than from eye): (a) Superficial, £3 3s. (b) Deep (excluding intraperitoneal), £12 12s.

Fractures:

1. (a) Bones of hand and foot (except os calcis, talus and carpal scaphoid), £4 4s. (b) Os calcis and talus, £15 15s. (c) Non-operative treatment of patella or of carpal scaphoid, £8 8s. (d) Upper arm, forearm, leg (one bone), £15 15s. Forearm or leg (both bones), £18 18s. (e) Femur, £28 7s. (f) Rib or ribs (uncomplicated), £3 3s. (g) Spine: (i) Transverse process or spinous process, £10 10s. (ii) Body of vertebra, £31 10s. (h) Pelvis: Uncomplicated, £12 12s. Complicated, £39 7s. 6d. (i) Clavicle, £6 6s. (j) Scapula, £6 6s. (k) Jaws: Upper jaw, £21. Lower jaw, £21.

2. Where the fracture is compound and/or complicated the above fees may be increased by 50% except for (l) (g) (ii) above.

3. Open operation for treatment of fracture and its complications including operations for mal-union, £23 12s. 6d.

Where an open operation is necessary in addition to any of the other treatments mentioned in this item the fee therefor shall be paid in addition to any other fee which may be payable in terms of this item.

Head Injuries: (a) Trephining, £31 10s. (b) Osteoplastic operation, £47 5s. (c) Lumbar puncture, £2 2s. (d) Cerebro-concussion 15s. per visit, with maximum of £15 15s.

Dislocations:

(1) Simple: (a) Bones of hand, foot and lower jaw, £4 4s. (b) Patella, £5 5s. (c) Shoulder, elbow, wrist, ankle, £9 9s. (d) Knee or hip, £18 18s. (e) Spine, £39 7s. 6d.

(2) Compound: (a) Bones of hand or foot, £18 18s. (b) All other, £28 7s.

Joint Injuries:

(1) (a) Sprains (other than ankle or knee), £2 2s. (b) Sprained ankle or knee, £4 4s. (c) Penetrating wounds of large joints, £18 18s. (d) Operation for internal derangement of knee joint, £31 10s. (e) Aspiration of joints, £2 2s. (f) Mobilization of joints under anaesthetic, £4 14s. 6d. (g) Simple manipulation of spine, £4 14s. 6d.

(2) (a) Conservative treatment of prolapsed intervertebral disc requiring P.O.P. Jacket manipulation under anaesthetic, etc., £15 15s. (b) Operative treatment for prolapsed intervertebral disc, laminectomy or spinal fusion (the fee to include all forms of preliminary investigation during the preceding 3 months), £42.

Amputations: (a) Finger or toe, £4 4s. (b) Forearm or below knee, £23 12s. 6d. (c) Above elbow or knee, £28 7s. (d) Hand, partial, £23 12s. 6d. (e) Through shoulder or hip joints, £39 7s. 6d.

Paracentesis of chest, £2 2s.

Intra-abdominal operation, £39 7s. 6d.

Intrathoracic operations: (a) For empyema of chest, £15 15s. (b) All other, £39 7s. 6d.

(a) *Repair of hernia* (single), £31 10s. (b) (double), £47 5s.

Injuries to the urinary tract. Operation for ruptured kidney, ruptured bladder, ruptured urethra or ureter, £39 7s. 6d.

Eye:

(a) Examination, per visit, including ordinary treatment: First visit, £2 2s. Subsequent visits (per visit), £1 1s. with maximum of £18 18s.

When a subsequent visit includes any of the following specialized examinations the fee for that visit shall be £2 2s.: (i) Complete refraction. (ii) Slip lamp examination. (iii) Visual fields on perimeter and/or Bjerrum's screen. (iv) Examination on Hess chart. (v) Orthoptic examination.

(b) Treatment for corneal ulcer or for superficial foreign body, as above. (c) Operation for traumatic cataract, £34 13s. (d) Intra-ocular magnet operation, £34 13s. (e) Needling, £9 9s. (f) Iridectomy, £23 12s. 6d. (g) Enucleation, £23 12s. 6d. (h) Plastic operations, £18 18s. (i) Detachment of retina, £39 7s. 6d. (j) Evisceration of eye, £15 15s. (k) Suture of conjunctiva, £7 17s. 6d. (l) Suture of corneal wounds, £15 15s. (m) Paracentesis, £7 17s. 6d.

Ear, Nose and Throat:

(a) Examination, per visit, including ordinary treatment: First visit, £2 2s. Subsequent visits, per visit, £1 1s. with maximum of £18 18s.

(b) Mastoiditis—Simple, £34 13s. Radical, £39 7s. 6d. (c) Paracentesis of one ear, £6 6s. Two ears, £9 9s. (d) (i) Simple fracture of nasal bones, £10 10s. (ii) Plastic operation refracture and reduction, £15 15s. (e) Intranasal dacryocystotomy, £34 13s. 6d. (f) (i) Other minor intranasal operations, e.g., turbinectomy, £10 10s. (ii) Other major intranasal operations, e.g., S.M.R., £18 18s. (g) Radical maxillary antrum, £28 7s. 6d. (h) External frontal or ethmoid sinus radical operation, £39 7s. 6d. (i) Tracheotomy, £18 18s. (j) (i) Oesophagoscopy for removal of foreign body, £26 5s. (ii) With dilation of stricture, £21. Additional dilations, £10. (k) Bronchoscopy for removal of foreign body, £26 5s. (l) Removal of foreign body from ear or nose under anaesthetic, £6 6s. (m) Audiometric examination and assessment of percentage hearing loss, £3 3s. (n) Labyrinthine tests, £2 2s. (o) Antrum puncture, £2 2s.

Radiological:

(1) X-ray examination, including screening where necessary: (a) Screen examination only, £3 3s. (b) Hand, wrist, forearm and ankle, £3 3s. (c) Shoulder, foot, knee, £3 3s. (d) Any long bone, £3 3s. (e) Urinary tract, plain, £3 3s. (f) Urinary tract with uro-selectan, £5 5s. (Fee to cover one injection and four plates. Where those figures are exceeded, £1 1s. additional for each injection after the first and £1 1s. for the fifth and each further plate.) (g) Skull (all types), £5 5s. (h) Antra, facial and nasal bones, £3 3s. (i) Pelvis, £3 3s. (j) Chest and ribs for fracture, £3 3s. (k) One section of spine, £3 3s. (l) Whole spine, £6 6s. (m) Gall bladder (plain), £3 3s. (n) Gall bladder with dye, £6 6s. (o) Stomach with barium meal, £5 5s. (p) Gastro-intestinal tract with barium meal, £7 17s. 6d. (q) Gastro-intestinal tract with barium meal and gall bladder with dye, £10 10s. (r) Stomach only with barium meal plus gall bladder with dye, £8 8s. (s) Barium enema, £6 6s. (t) Eye-localization of foreign bodies, £5 5s.

(2) Portable X-ray examination away from consulting rooms (additional to above fees), £4 4s.

(3) Where as the result of any one accident X-ray examinations of different parts of the body are necessary the highest prescribed fee for any examination of one part of the body shall be paid in full and the prescribed fees in respect of any other examination shall be reduced by 50%.

(4) Where as the result of any one accident more than one examination is necessary, the examinations subsequent to the first, when undertaken by the same practitioner, radiologist, or hospital within a period of 3 months of the first examination in respect of such accident, shall be charged for at the rate of 50% of the prescribed fee.

Anaesthetics:

(1) (a) For operations for which the fee prescribed in these regulations is £12 12s. or less, £2 2s. For operations the prescribed fee for which exceeds £12 12s., £2 2s. plus 10s. 6d. for each £5 5s. or part thereof of the total surgical fee prescribed.

(b) Where the anaesthetist supplies his own anaesthetic, the cost of such anaesthetic may be added to the above fee. *Note.*—These fees shall apply to whatever type of anaesthetic has been decided upon, i.e., intravenous, spinal, intranasal or splanchnic and include pre-operative examinations and post-operative visits by an anaesthetist.

(c) For local anaesthesia: (i) For operations where the prescribed fee is £3 3s. or less, Nil. (ii) For operations where the prescribed fee is more than £3 3s. but not more than £18 18s., £3 3s. (iii) For operations where the prescribed fee is £18 18s. or more, add 10s. 6d. for each £5 5s. or part of same by which the prescribed fee exceeds £18 18s.

Blood Transfusions: For first transfusion of one or two pints (and including grouping and cross matching), £3 3s. For each additional transfusion, £1 1s. with a maximum fee of £10 10s. for any one accident.

Physiotherapy by Registered Medical Practitioners: (a) Superficial therapy, £1 1s. per visit (maximum, £21). (b) Massage and electrical treatment, £1 1s. per visit (maximum, £21). (c) Electrical reactions of muscles, £2. (d) All special forms of treatment, £2 2s. for first visit and £1 1s. for each subsequent visit with a maximum of £12 12s.

Scheduled Industrial Diseases: Dermatitis—examination and full report, including patch testing, £8 8s.

Medicines and Dressings: Where drugs and dressings are necessarily and actually supplied by the attending practitioner, 10% may be added to the standard retail tariff of the Pharmaceutical Society of Southern Rhodesia.

Vaccine or Serum: Where in the course of treatment for any injury, it is necessary to administer a vaccine or serum the net cost thereof may be added to any fee payable under the schedule.

Travelling Expenses: A fee of 2s. per mile travelled shall be allowed to a medical practitioner called upon to travel to a place

more than 3 miles from his surgery or usual place of residence. No fee shall be payable where the place visited is not more than 3 miles from his surgery or usual place of residence. No detention fee shall be payable in respect of such journeys. Where more than one patient is visited at different addresses on the same journey only the actual miles travelled to visit each patient shall be payable.

NOTES

Where a fee for any service is prescribed herein, the medical practitioner shall not be entitled to payment calculated on a basis of visits or examinations made, where such calculation would result in the prescribed fee being exceeded.

Fees for services not specified in this tariff and fees for specially complicated or prolonged treatment may be referred to the Commissioner for assessment by Medical Assessors to be appointed by the Minister after consultation with the Medical Association of Southern Rhodesia.

For the purpose of this Schedule 'major operation' shall mean any operation for which the fee prescribed is £12 12s. or more.

The cost of all necessary attention subsequent to any operation and/or treatment in respect of which a fee is prescribed in this Schedule, shall be regarded as being included in such fee.

The prescribed fee shall cover the cost of routine reports giving details of an injured workman's absence from duty, the nature of the injury or disease from which he is suffering and the date on which he will be fit to return to duty. For any other report called for by the commissioner, a fee of £2 2s. may be claimed.

Where, as a result of any one accident, more than one operation or treatment for which a special fee in respect of each is prescribed in this Schedule is performed or carried out at the same time by the same medical practitioner, the prescribed fee in respect of any one operation or treatment shall be paid in full and the other prescribed fees shall be reduced by 50%.

Where secondary operations are performed at a date subsequent to a primary operation 50% of the prescribed fee shall be payable in respect of such secondary operations.

The fees and charges in respect of services rendered to Native workmen shall be 50% of the fees herein prescribed.