

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

CODE OF SURGICAL OPERATIONS

Summary: This memorandum commends to hospital authorities a Code of Surgical Operations recently prepared by the General Register Office.

1. The General Register Office has published a Code to enable all surgical operations to be classified for statistical and record purposes. One copy of the code is being sent with this memorandum to Regional Hospital Boards and Boards of Governors. A number of individual hospitals have already received a copy and any other hospital which has a particular interest can obtain one copy free of charge on direct application to the General Register Office, Somerset House, London, W.C.2. Further copies of the Report are obtainable from H.M.S.O. or through any bookseller at 15s. per copy.
2. The Standing Medical Advisory Committee and the Central Health Services Council have considered the Code and have supported its publication. It appears to the Minister that as hospital record systems are revised and expanded it will be useful to base them on a uniform coding system and it is hoped that the existence of an accepted Code in this country may be of value in procuring an international Code at a later date.
3. In the introduction to the Code, hospitals are asked to make suggestions on terms which might usefully be included in later editions or omitted. The General Register Office would welcome any help given in this way.

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*Regional Hospital Boards,
Hospital Management Committees,
Boards of Governors.*