

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

TRAINING GRANTS FOR STUDENT RADIOGRAPHERS

Summary. This memorandum authorises the payment of training grants to student radiographers where this is necessary to maintain recruitment.

1. As Boards and Committees are aware the Minister has recently undertaken a survey of the staffing of radiography departments by radiographers, and of the intake of radiography schools. The survey shows that although until recently the number of radiographers has shown a marked increase, this is failing to meet the increase in the demand for X-ray services in the hospital service. It also shows that recruitment to the radiography schools is at present insufficient to provide the additional trained radiographers required to meet the needs of the service and that, particularly in some areas, schools are unable to recruit up to the capacity of their training facilities.

2. Boards and Committees will also be aware that in the past the practice of radiography schools in relation to the payment of training grants to students has shown wide variation. In some schools training fees are charged, and students may receive grants from local education authorities but no training grant is paid by the hospital authority. In other schools no charge is made and no grant is given. At a number of schools, however, in order to encourage recruitment, hospital authorities have found it necessary to pay training grants of varying amounts and in most such cases to make no charges.

3. In general the Minister shares the view expressed by the Cope Committee when reporting in 1951 that it is desirable that student radiographers (like almost all other student medical auxiliaries which were the subject of their enquiry) should meet the cost of their training and should not receive payment from the Hospital Board or Committee. It appears to him, however, that experience since that time and the results of the recent survey make it clear that in at least some schools it is essential for the training fees of student radiographers to be waived, or training grants paid to them by the hospital authority, or both, if recruitment is to be adequately maintained. He has therefore decided to authorise the payment of training grants to student radiographers in the circumstances and on the basis set out below.

4. (a) Where no training grant is paid by the Board or Committee (whether training fees are charged or not), hospital authorities should not vary their present practice unless experience satisfies them that recruitment on the present basis is unsatisfactory.

(b) Where training grants are already being paid by the hospital authority, they may continue to be paid subject to the conditions in (c) below.

(c) If at any school where no training grant is paid the intake of first-year students is less than 75 per cent of the number of approved places for first year students, the Regional Hospital Board

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

may authorise the Hospital Management Committee concerned—or in teaching hospital schools the Board of Governors itself may determine—to waive fees if fees are charged, or to pay a training grant up to the maximum set out in (e) below, or both, the size of any grant being determined by the Board according to local circumstances. If at any such school the intake exceeds 75 per cent but the Board concerned considers that local circumstances make essential the waiving of fees or the payment of a training grant or both, they should seek the prior approval of the Minister.

(d) If it is proposed to open a new school, and it is desired to charge no fees or to pay training grants or both, the Board concerned should similarly seek prior approval.

(e) (i) The training grants paid should not exceed £200 per annum for first-year students and any others who have not passed their Part I examination, and £240 per annum for students who have passed that examination.

(ii) The amount of the grant to be paid in each school should depend on the Board's view of local circumstances, and should normally be less than the maximum.

(iii) Grants should not continue to be paid to students who fail their Part I and Final Examinations more than three times in all.

(iv) Where training grants in excess of these maxima are already being paid to students (or an undertaking has been given that higher rates will be paid), payment may be made at the higher rates to those students; but any new students should be paid at a rate not exceeding the maxima set out above.

5. In so far as these new arrangements lead to an increase in the number of students, the additional cost must be regarded as part of the cost of development and improvement in the hospital service and be met within the allocation. If, however, difficulty is anticipated in meeting within the allocation for the current financial year the additional cost of granting training allowances and modifying fees in respect of the existing number of students, i.e. the number in post at 30th September, 1957, particulars of the estimated additional cost should be sent to the Department (A.G.D.4) for consideration.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
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LONDON, W.1.

3rd October, 1957.

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