

CHAPTER 8 - HOSPITAL MESSING

MESSING FOR PATIENTS AND VISITORS IN HOSPITALS, REHABILITATION CENTRES AND MEDICAL RECEPTION CENTRES

0801. **Hospital Daily Messing Rate (HDMR).** The HDMR is designed to provide all food and non-alcoholic beverages for Service and civilian patients who are entered on the daily bed state; this includes National Health Service (NHS) patients for whom no meal charges are raised. The appropriate percentage of this rate is also applicable to day patients, outpatients, or any other patients who appear on the daily bed-state. (Civilians attending as outpatients may be provided with casual meals, which they are to purchase at the entitled rate). When assessing which band of HDMR to claim for a mess or kitchen, the total number of patients fed from that mess or kitchen is to be used. Staffs are not to be catered for under HDMR. The HDMR is promulgated quarterly by DFS IPT Bud Man and may be claimed at the following establishments:

- a. Service Hospitals (including Field Hospitals when deployed operationally).
- b. The Defence Services Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DSMRC).
- c. Medical Reception Stations (MRS) or RAF Regional Medical Centres (RMC).

0802. **Sources of Food Supply.** All messing commodities are to be obtained from the PFM food contractor in accordance with Chapter 2. Items required for medical reasons are to be obtained through medical channels and charged to the Medical Vote.

0803. **Medical Comforts.** Non-alcoholic medical comforts, including beverages and snacks, are to be provided from the HDMR.

0804. **Alcoholic Drinks.** Alcoholic drinks, whether prescribed for therapeutic purposes, or used as a component of liquid medicines, are to be obtained through medical channels and are not to be charged to the Food Vote.

0805. **Aeromedevac Patients.** The feeding of Aeromedevac patients is part of the hospital catering function. Although such patients will not normally appear on the daily bed state, the appropriate percentage of HDMR may be claimed for each meal taken. All claims are to be consolidated on a weekly certificate (see Annex A), raised to support the entries in the messing account. Where Aeromedevac patients are admitted overnight they are to appear on the daily bed state, and the HDMR is to be claimed.

0806. **Drinks for Operating Theatre Staff.** Due to abnormal conditions of light and heat, and the need to maintain clinical hygiene preventing theatre staff from returning to their mess for refreshments, at the discretion of the MOIC, hot or cold beverages as appropriate, may be issued to operating theatre staff. The hot drinks supplement (see Chapter 6) may be claimed for such issues.

0807. **Specialised Food for Diet Supplement.** There is a wide range of specialised proprietary food items designed to supplement the diet of patients. Stocks of the more common proprietary foods should be held, but stock levels should be carefully controlled as they are usually relatively expensive items. These foods should only be normally issued on the authority of the MOIC. Specialised proprietary foods are to be issued for specific medical conditions, and not for routine dietary use. They are to be obtained through medical channels and charged to the medical vote.

0808. **Maternity Supplement (Home and Overseas).** Daily supplements may be claimed for maternity patients from the date of admission as follows:

a. **Breast-Feeding.** During breast-feeding, or until the infant is placed on bottle-feeding, 0.5 ltr of fresh milk may be issued. The costs of issues are to be credited to the Messing Account.

b. **Bottle-Feeding.** During bottle-feeding, for up to 8 feeds per day, and as prescribed by the MOIC, ready-to-feed (RTF) glucose, and/or sterile water may be provided as directed by the MOIC. The costs of issues are to be entered as a contra entry in the Messing Account.

0809. **Further Treatment of New Born Babies.** When a new born baby requires medical treatment, and is kept in hospital after the mother has been discharged, the feeding entitlement of the baby is to be the same as articulated in para 0810b. The cost of ready-to-use feeds is to be entered as a contra entry in the Messing Account.

0810. **Visits by Relatives.** Meals may be provided for relatives visiting patients in the following categories:

a. **Relatives visiting Very Seriously Ill (VSI) or Seriously Ill (SI)** patients may be provided with meals at public expense for the first 48 hrs. Thereafter, meals may be purchased at the current entitled casual meal rate. For visitors to an overseas MH/MRS, food charges may be waived for up to 10 days.

b. If, in the view of the MOIC, the parent or guardian should remain with the child admitted as an in-patient, meals taken by the parent or guardian are to be provided at public expense for the duration of the parent's stay with the child as directed by the MOIC.

0811. **Accounting for Meals Provided to Relatives.** In both categories at para 0810, where meals have been provided at public expense, the Messing Account is to be credited with the appropriate DMR (or percentages thereof) as detailed in Chapter 5.

ISSUES TO MEDICAL DISPENSARIES AND RESERVE RATIONS

0812. **Issues to Medical Dispensaries.** If required by the Medical Officer in Charge, sugar, salt, and syrups may be issued to a dispensary. The cost is to be charged to the medical vote, and a miscellaneous credit shown in the Messing Account.

0813. **Reserve Rations in Medical Reception Centre (MRC).** Reserve rations may be held in MRCs to the scale shown below, and are to be used for the benefit of patients in an emergency. Where the core list item is of a different size the nearest pack size to the scale is to be held.

Coffee	225gm
Cocoa	400gm
Sugar	4.5kg
Tea	400gm
Milk Tinned	10 tins

These items are to be issued to the MOIC who is to authorise the internal transfer document.

0814-0899 Reserved

ANNEX A - WEEKLY AEROMEDEVAC FEEDING RECORD

Hospital / Medical Reception Centre: Week Commencing

1. This List is to be completed daily and, once fully completed, passed to the Catering Office

NAME	RANK	SERVICE No.	PARENT UNIT	Mon(A)			Tue(B)			Wed(C)			Thu(D)			Fri(E)			Sat(F)			Sun(G)		
				B	L	D	B	L	D	B	L	D	B	L	D	B	L	D	B	L	D	B	L	D
TOTAL MEALS	N/A	N/A	N/A																					

TOTAL MEALS SUPPLIED = A+B+C+D+E+F+G

BREAKFAST (15% DMR)	
THIRD MEAL (35% DMR)	
MAIN MEAL (50% DMR)	

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

I certify that the above represents a true record of meals supplied to Aeromedevac Patients not shown on the Daily Bed State

Signature Name Rank

