

TRAINER PRACTICES

Title: Trainer Practices
Date: 27 January 1999
Document Type: Letter

From: Department of Health and Children
To: Each GP Unit Administrator

Re: Trainer Practices

1. I refer to the February 1998 Agreement with the Irish Medical Organisation on **Trainer Practices**. I now wish to inform you that the following arrangements should apply in respect of the training year 1998/99.

2. On the basis of figures supplied by the Health Board General Practice Units, there are currently 97 Trainer Practices in the State. As there is provision for only 55 Third Year GP Trainees, it follows there can only be at any one time 55 Active Trainer Practices. Accordingly, 42 Trainer Practices must be non-active at any time. However, in respect of some training schemes, it may be that a trainee may spend some of his or her third year in more than one Trainer Practice. In such a scenario, a practice that is active should receive a proportionate share of both the full year active allowance and practice expenses' contribution together with the relevant proportion applicable at the non-active allowance rate.

3. Active GP Trainers

Allowances will be paid to Active GP Trainers as follows: -
£5,000 trainers allowance
£2,500 contribution towards practice expenses

Non-Active GP Trainers

In respect of non-active trainers: - £2,300 contribution towards practice expenses

4. The optimum number of Trainer Practices required will be considered this year by the Department of Health & Children, the Irish Medical Organisation and the Irish College of General Practitioners with a view to establishing the proper ratio of Active to Non-Active practices that is necessary for the optimal provision of trainer services.

5. Arrangements in relation to Trainer Practices, provided for in the Agreement, were not to be effective until the training year 1998/99 which began in August. Accordingly, they do not apply to any Trainer Practice arrangements, if any, that may have been in place in the training year 1997/98.

6. The GMS (Payments) Board are being requested to make the monies available to each Health Board to implement the above in respect of the training period from 1 July to 31 December 1998. The relevant monies for the second half of the 1998/99 training year will be provided, in due course, later in the first half of 1999.

Peter Lennon
GMS Division
27 January 1999