

# RURAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE

**Title: Rural Practice Allowance**

**Date: 11 February 2000**

**Document Type: Circular**

**Link: Circular of 14 April 1999**

**From: Department of Health and Children, Ireland**

**To: Each Primary Care Manager/GP Unit Administrator**

**Re: RURAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE and Doctors Entering the Scheme on the basis of the One Off Arrangements as per Circular 14 April 1999**

This Circular simply clarifies a position

1. Doctors entering the GMS Scheme either on a limited contract or full contract basis by virtue of the one-off arrangements in the above Circular cannot avail of rural practice allowances.

2. A doctor who is in receipt of such an allowance in respect of his or her practice shall continue to receive that allowance even if the number of contracted GMS Scheme doctors increase in his or her relevant area by virtue of persons availing of the one-off arrangements to obtain contracts.

3. However, where the doctor (who is in receipt of the allowance) retires, resigns or otherwise terminates his or her GMS Scheme contract (or has it so terminated), the Health Board shall have regard to the number of contracted doctors then in the area before determining whether the position should continue to attract a Rural Practice Allowance when filled.

Peter Lennon  
GMS Division  
11 February 2000