

# ASYLUM SEEKERS - INTERIM PAYMENT TO DOCTORS

**Title: Asylum Seekers - Interim Payment to Doctors**  
**Date: 26 November 2001**  
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**From: Eamon Corcoran, Principal Officer, GMS Division**  
**To: Each Primary Care Manager**

## **Re: Asylum Seekers - Interim Payment to Doctors**

One of the provisions of the recent agreement with the Irish Medical Organisation was that each general practitioner providing services to asylum seekers would receive a one off registration fee payment of £100 in respect of each asylum seeker on their panel on 1 April 2001 and for all new asylum clients from that date. I would draw your attention to the clause from the Circular of 31 July 2001 about the exceptions to this rule.

*"This provision will not be applicable in respect of any asylum seeker or seekers where any Health Board or other State Agency has already made a special arrangement with a contracted doctor or doctors in relation thereto. In the context of this provision a special arrangement means any fee or other scheme of remuneration outside of the normal capitation scheme. However, a contracted doctor having such a special arrangement may opt for the registration provision under this agreement where it is more favorable. In such an instance, the amount of the registration fee to be paid will have regard to any amount already paid under the aforementioned special arrangement."*

Mindful of the fact that Health Boards have been experiencing extreme difficulty in trying to identify and verify the numbers of asylum seekers on doctors panels and in an effort to honour the agreement reached with the IMO, while this process is being undertaken, it is now proposed that you would make arrangements to pay doctors in your area providing service to asylum seekers an amount equivalent to 50% of the monies which he/she is claiming to be due to him/her.

In order to avail of this interim payment doctors should be asked to sign a document agreeing that any overpayment may be recouped from any future monies payable to them for services provided under the GMS Scheme.

I will be contacting the GMS (Payments) Board on this issue also.

**Eamon Corcoran**  
**Principal Officer**  
**GMS Division**  
**26 November 2001**