



# Accessing and Maximising State GP Contracts

## ICGP Network of Establishing GPs

Dublin Regional Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010



# Agenda

- Accessing state contracts, and maximising benefits thereof
- Preparing for GMS interview
- Review of ICPG website
- IMO announcements
- Q+A / suggestions for future meetings

# Overview

## Access Options and Maximising Use of:

- GMS contract (HSE)
- Mother and Infant contract (HSE)
- Child Immunisation contract (HSE)
- Cervicalcheck contract (NCSS)
- Medical Certifiers contract (Dept SFA)

Further info in 'Signposts to Success' (ICGP Handbook for Establishing GPs)

ICGP Management in Practice Programme

2010 ICGP diary

Also IMO, HSE, GMS contract

# What Relevance to Me?

- Regardless of your current 'job description', all contracts are relevant to you and should be understood by you
- Enhance your position within your practice by ensuring all contracts are being used to full benefit, and that your clinical habits reflect this
- Many GPs / practices are too busy to do this well – practice manager role is important but not universal

# Basic Accounting

- Keep on top of your accounts:
  - Ensure spreadsheets (e.g. Excel) are in place to document monies owed for services provided to HSE etc., and dates of payment (with back-up)
  - Include separate sheets for Immunisations, Mother + Infant returns, smears, STCs (with ref number from PCRS online), SW cert returns (3 monthly).
  - Should also do for VHI, Quinn, Aviva, PMAs, medico-legal reports, etc
  - Keep copies of claim forms submitted

# GMS Contract - Access

## Currently 3 Options for Gaining GMS Contract:

1. GMS vacancy (retirement / death of GP) see [www.careersinhealthcare.ie](http://www.careersinhealthcare.ie)
2. AWAV – if partnership plans in place, principal applies to HSE for AWAV within GMS for you (has veto for unsuitable candidates)
  - Must have panel >500 and >5yrs to retirement
  - Probation x 6/12, you get full GMS after 5 years
  - Some rights to list if partnership dissolves after 3 yrs
3. Once-off entry agreements
  - DVC route still open (1 yr full-time before 01.07.05)
  - Latest option now closed (31/1/10); over 70's, 5-year rule (both closed).

# Eligibility for GMS

- Must have:
  - (i) Full registration with Medical Council AND
  - (ii) Hold CSTAR (Certificate of Specific Training or Acquired Rights) from Medical Council
    - To get CSTAR:
      - Proof of completion of Vocational Training scheme and gained MICGP, or equivalent under EU directive (for EU-trained GPs)
- Garda clearance (send ASAP as can take months)
- Medical clearance
- GMS interview (will discuss in other presentation)

# Maximising GMS Contract

- Submit STCs online to PCRS to ensure prompt payment and correct errors instantly
- Ensure you complete STCs for all special type services provided to your patients, also for EU visitors and out-of-hours emergencies (€46.59)
- Ensure your practice claims (usually via Primary Care Dept) for:
  - Indemnity refund (10% for panel 100-250; max 95% for panel >1500)
  - Practice support subsidy (pro rata once panel >100 at last year end) towards receptionist, nurse, practice manager
  - Supplementary allowances (rostering; practice maintenance; staff)
  - Locum payments for annual leave (panel >100 = 14 days, max panel 1500 = 35 days) (€231.77/day)
  - Study leave (panel >100 = 10 days @ €231.77/day)
  - Maternity leave (pro rata from panel >100, max if panel >500, €231.77/day)
  - Computer grant (certain HSE areas)
  - Immunisations contract grant (cost of fridge)
  - Rural practice allowance (€19,055.31)
  - Grants for practice premises (e.g. 25% of cost to max €2867)



# Maximising GMS Contract

## • Extra Benefits / Payments Available:

- Contraceptive Services contract (€100 per session, 4 GMS patients per session), via local Primary Care Dept. Not offered nationwide
- Palliative care payments (€223.25 per patient), via Primary Care Dept (may vary). Provide palliative care to terminally ill patients in the community (GMS and private patients)
- Nursing home payments (annual; STC)
- Asylum seekers once-off registration (€179.25)

# Special Items of Service

- Excisions/cryotherapy/diathermy of skin lesions (€29.14)
- Suturing of cuts and lacerations (€29.14)
- Draining of hydrocoeles (€29.14)
- Treatment and plugging of dental and nasal haemorrhages (€29.14)
- Recognised vein treatment (€29.14)
- ECG tests and interpretation (€29.14)
- Instruction in fitting of diaphragm (€29.14)
- Removal of adherent foreign bodies from eye (€29.14)
- Removal of adherent foreign bodies from ENT (€29.14)
- Nebuliser treatment in case of acute asthma (€43.73)
- Bladder catheterisation (€43.73)
- Advice and fitting of a diaphragm (€49.05)
- Counselling and fitting of IUCD (€78.49)
- Attendance by GP at HSE-convened case conference (€72.88)

# Mother and Infant Care Contract

- Awarded by HSE to appropriately registered and insured GPs (+/- GMS). Contact Primary Care Dept
- Agreed programme of care (8-9 visits) to pregnant mothers and newborn baby up to 6 weeks
- All expectant mothers ordinarily resident in the state are eligible for services (include PPSN)
- If woman moves doctors within pregnancy, new form to be signed
- Shared care with GP and obstetrician
- Pregnancy tests supplied by HSE (Healthcare 21, Ballincollig, Cork)
- Doesn't cover incidental illnesses unrelated to pregnancy

# Schedule of GP Antenatal Visits

Ensure you see the woman at the correct time or payments are reduced.

1. Before 12 weeks (€45.14)
2. 24 weeks (€32.51)
3. 28 weeks (not in first pregnancy) (€32.51)
4. 30 weeks (€32.51)
5. 34 weeks (€32.51)
6. 37 weeks (€32.51)
7. 39 weeks (€32.51)
8. 2 week postnatal (baby) (€32.51) – *check mother's health status, review hospital care experience, address any difficulties with baby, monitor growth + development, percentiles*
9. 6 week postnatal (mother and baby) (€45.14) – *examine the mother, family planning, examine baby, review feeding, immunisation plan, forward growth info to AMO*

# Payment for Maternity Care

- Total in first pregnancy: €285.37
- Total for other pregnancies: €317.88
- Where additional visits are required by patients suffering from major conditions (e.g. HTN, DM), a fee of €32.51 per extra visit, subject to max of 5, may be paid.
- NB: Claim all visits relating to miscarriage including post-miscarriage counselling visits (€32.51 per visit, after initial visit €45.14)
- Fee of €270.89 for GP attendance at emergency deliveries (not obliged).

# Primary Childhood Immunisation Contract

- HSE awards contract to suitably registered and insured GPs (+/- GMS)
- Aim is to eradicate diseases based on >95% uptake
- Registration fee (€40.84) paid when parents nominate GP after delivery
- Complete course (€136.08)
- 95% uptake bonus (€65.54)
- Different rates apply if change of doctor

# Immunisation Fees: Change of Doctor

- First GP gets registration fee regardless of giving vaccine or not (€40.84)
- Vaccinating GP then gets approx €19.77 for some immunisation visits (double for others)
- Change doctor after 4/12: first GP gets reg fee plus €80.40. Second GP gets €60.61
- Change doctor after 6/12: first GP gets reg fee plus €136.08. Second GP gets MMR fee of €65.54!
- Where MMR not given by nominated GP deduct €44.22
- Rates paid per child for full course varies from approx €120 to approx €240 according to listed rates (which are a little confusing)

# Other Immunisations

- Pre-school booster €38.95, MMR booster €38.95
- Pre-school booster and second MMR together (50% discount on second vaccine) €58.42
- Pneumococcal baby vaccine €19.85
- Influenza to at-risk GMS population €42.75
- Pneumococcal to at-risk GMS €42.75
  - Both vaccines together €64.12
- Hepatitis B course to at-risk GMS €154.13
- Full rates in contract or ICGP 2010 diary



# Social Welfare Certification Contract

- Department of Social and Family Affairs
- Contract for registered and insured GPs
- Examine patients and issue certs, free of charge to the patient, re incapacity for work due to specific disease or disablement
- Return medical reports when asked, (within 10 days if posted to you), free to patient
- Fee per medical certificate: €8.35
- Fee per medical report: €44.44

# www.cervicalcheck.ie

- National Cancer Screening Service
- Cervical smears by invite letter only for all women age 25-60
- €51.69 per eligible smear via PCRS
- For abnormal smears under 25, lab will process if provided with previous result but GP will not be paid
- Can fast-track registration for 'urgent' cases, must still wait for letter
- Can include >60 if not known to program (register first)
- For 6/12 repeats, cannot do before 5/12
- For 12/12 repeats, cannot do before 10/12
- Smears done before they are due will not be paid and may not be processed
- Check eligibility (1800) 45 45 55

# Other Contracts or Fees

- Department of Justice:
  - Examinations requested by Gardai: €92-147
  - Court attendance as expert witness: €369 / half day plus locum and other expenses
- Mental Health cert (claim €40 from local Psych Dept for committal of patient)
- Methadone Treatment Protocol
- District / Long stay units Medical Officer
- GP unit doctor contracts (GP is intermediary between Primary Care Dept and local GPs; advisory role)
- GP Trainer and Scheme Director contracts
- CIE; An Post, Port + Docks Medical Officers
- Refer to IMO for further details re contracts

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