

Arrangements for Dispensing by GMS Doctors

Title: Arrangements for dispensing by GMS doctors

Date: 18 June 1987

Document Type: Circular 12/87

Link: Circular 4/87

From: Department of Health, Ireland

To: the Chief Executive Officer, Each Health Board

Dear CEO

I have been directed by the Minister for Health to refer to the terms of Circular 4/87 dated 4th February last, which notified you of the decision of the then Government to terminate for the most part the arrangements for direct dispensing of drugs and medicines to GMS patients by a number of doctors participating in the GMS Scheme.

Following a reassessment of that decision, the Minister has decided to restore the arrangements for dispensing by doctors in accordance with paragraphs 40 - 44 of Circular 13/72. The renewed arrangements will be effective as and from the 1st July 1987.

From the date indicated, GMS doctors shall dispense to patients for whom they have liability to dispense in accordance with the terms of paragraph 14 of the doctors' GMS contract. It follows, of course, that the "stock order" arrangements will again apply. However, it has been agreed to change the method of processing "stock order" forms within the restored arrangements. In future doctors should submit the first three copies of the "stock order" direct to the health boards and should retain copy four. In turn, the health board will, on review and clearance, submit copies one and two of "stock order" to the pharmacist nominated by the general practitioner in accordance with the terms of paragraph 40 of Circular 13/72.

You will be aware that the former arrangements for dispensing by GMS doctors had been the subject of criticism by Local Government Auditors. In that regard it has been agreed with the Irish Medical Organisation, as a condition of the resumption of the dispensing doctor arrangements, that the dispensing doctor, will henceforth complete a dispensing record form on each occasion that he dispenses to an eligible GMS patient. Supplies of these record forms will be forwarded to doctors by the GMS (Payments) Board. Stock order forms, apart from the initial stock order, must be accompanied by the originals (yellow copies) of the Dispensing Doctors' Record Forms completed since the previous order was submitted. (Copies of all cancelled forms should also be submitted.)

Health Boards should (as per attached) advise each doctor to whom paragraph 14 of the doctor's contract applies and all pharmacists participating in the GMS Scheme of the terms of the arrangements referred to in this circular prior to 1st July 1987.

It has been agreed that with effect from the renewal of dispensing all dispensing doctors will henceforth complete a record form in respect of each occasion when drugs, medicines or appliances are dispensed to a GMS patient who is eligible to be dispensed to under the Scheme: these record forms are titled "Dispensing Doctors' Record Forms". These forms which are personalised are produced on NCR (self carbonising) paper as are the existing GMS prescription forms: they should be completed in accordance with the current arrangements for the use of GMS prescription forms. A supply of "Dispensing Doctors' Record Forms" is being forwarded to you under separate cover. Further supplies may be obtained by signing the re-order card which is enclosed in each carton of forms and returning it, in the prepaid envelope supplied, to the GMS

(Payments) Board, Raven House, Finglas, Dublin 11 allowing up to 2 weeks for delivery of Dispensing Doctors' Record Forms.

Stock Order Forms - after the first order - should be submitted to the Health Board, at monthly intervals and must be accompanied by the originals (yellow copies) of "Dispensing Doctors' Record Forms" completed since the previous order was submitted. Copies of all cancelled forms should also be submitted.

In summary, with effect from 1st July 1987 dispensing doctors may obtain supplies of drugs, etc by (i) requisitioning them on form S.O. 6/87; (ii) forwarding signed and completed forms to the health boards; (iii) recording drugs etc. dispensed to eligible GMS patients on the appropriate Record Form and returning such forms to the health boards. (Cancelled forms should also be returned to the health board). Supplies of Stock Order Forms S.O. 6/87 are available from the health board and supplies of Dispensing Doctors' Record Forms are obtained by signing the re-order card and returning it to the GMS (Payments) Board, Raven House, Finglas, Dublin 11.

Yours sincerely,

T. Tansley

Principal Officer

18 June, 1987