

# Entry to the General Medical Service Scheme under the Five Year Rule

**Title: Entry to the General Medical Service Scheme under the five year rule**

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**From: Department of Health, Ireland**

**To: Each Health Board Chief Executive officer**

**Re: Entry to the General Medical Service Scheme under the five year rule**

A Chara

I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to this Department's Circular 1/88 and to the on-going discussions on the General Medical Service Scheme involving representatives of the Department of Health, the health boards and the Irish Medical Organisation. Arising out of the discussions to date, agreement has been reached on the matter of entry to the scheme by medical practitioners under the five year rule.

Following such agreement, the Minister has determined that entry to the General Medical Service Scheme under the five year rule shall apply in the case of a medical practitioner who has completed five years continuous service in full-time general practice at a particular centre by virtue of having established himself in full-time practice in that centre on or before 1st January, 1989, subject to meeting the requirements on minimum qualifications as outlined in Circular 9/81.

It follows, therefore, that entry to the scheme under the five year rule will not be available to a medical practitioner who establishes himself in private practice after 1st January 1989.

Mise le meas

P W Flanagan

Secretary

30 December 1988