

Revised Agreement with Medical Practitioners Participating in GMS

Title: Revised Agreement with Medical Practitioners Participating in GMS

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From: Department of Health, Ireland

To: Chief Executive Officer, Each Health Board

Re: Revised Agreement with Medical Practitioners Participating in GMS

A Chara

1. I am directed by the Minister for Health to state that, following a series of detailed discussions with the Irish Medical Organisation, under the chairmanship of Mr John Horgan, Chairman of the Labour Court, agreement has been reached between the parties regarding new and revised conditions applicable to arrangements entered into by Health Boards under section 26 of the Health Act, 1970 for the provision of services in accordance with section 58 of the Health Act, 1970.

2. This Circular, together with the accompanying Agreement proposal, Schedule and Appendices, shall be regarded as conveying formally the new and revised conditions specified by the Minister under section 26 of the Health Act, 1970 in accordance with which Health Boards may provide the services under section 58 of the Health Act, 1970.

3. Health Boards shall request all those registered medical practitioners with whom they currently have a G.M.S. agreement to sign and return a proposal for the provision of services in accordance with these new and revised conditions. Such medical practitioners shall be required to return signed proposals by the specified date.

Health Boards may enter into agreements with registered medical practitioners on foot of such proposal under section 26 (1) of the Health Act, 1960 but shall not do so until they have been informed that the Minister is satisfied that these conditions will constitute uniform arrangements for all participating doctors.

4. Proposals from medical practitioners conveying their agreement to provide services in accordance with the new and revised conditions shall be in the form of the proposal accompanying this Circular. Health Boards may accept such proposals and enter into agreement with medical practitioners on foot of same, provided that the Minister is satisfied that these conditions will constitute uniform arrangements for all participating doctors.

The Schedule accompanying this Circular sets out the duties and responsibilities as between the medical practitioner and the Health Board in regard to the provision of services under any such agreement. Fees and allowances payable under the agreement are detailed in Appendix A to the Schedule.

5. A further communication will be sent to you regarding the arrangements for the implementation of other aspects of such agreements with medical practitioners including:

- claiming annual, sick and study leave entitlement

- General Practice Development Fund claims
- claims in relation to Special Items of Service
- operation of National Drugs Formulary
- conditions of entry to Scheme
- Practice Support Posts
- disciplinary matters pending and collection of fees due under the old scheme
- guarantees and other matters relevant to former district medical officer posts.

Some of these matters will require further discussion with the Irish Medical Organisation.

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P W Flanagan

Secretary

6 February, 1989