

# Special Items of Service Within the GMS

**Title: Special Items of Service Within the GMS**

**Date: July 1989**

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**From: Department of Health, Ireland**

**To: Chief Executive Officer, Each Health Board**

**Re: Special Items of Service Within the GMS**

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to the new terms and conditions for medical practitioners participating in the GMS, in particular to Paragraph (XV) of Appendix A to the new terms concerning Special Items of Service.

This Circular sets out in greater detail the circumstances under which the agreed extended list of special items of service shall be made available to eligible patients by participating doctors and following the recommendations contained in the Interim Report of the Working Party, recently submitted to the Minister.

## **Extended List of Special Items of Service**

The following list of items was agreed by the parties to the negotiations for inclusion as special items of service on the basis of the specified conditions, and for which additional fees, as specified, shall be paid in the context of the new GMS Contract.

1. Suturing cuts and lacerations.
2. Treatment and plugging of dental and nasal haemorrhages.
3. Draining of hydroceles.
4. Recognised vein treatment involving sclerotherapy
5. E.C.G. tests and their interpretation.
6. Instruction in the fitting of a diaphragm.
7. Excisions, Diathermy, Cryotherapy in relation to warts, Verrucca, Solar keratosis, cysts papillomata, ingrown toenails, abscesses.
8. Nebuliser treatment. Payment for Nebuliser treatment will only be made in the case of acute asthmatic attack.
9. Bladder Catheterizations.
10. Removal of foreign bodies from the eye in circumstances where the object is adhered to the conjunctival surface.

11. Removal of foreign bodies lodged or impacted in the ear, nose and throat. The removal of foreign bodies lodged or impacted in the ear does not cover syringing for the removal of wax.

12. Attendance at Case Conferences. Payment for attendance at Case Conferences will be paid only in circumstances where such meetings are convened by the Health Board DCC/MOH.

In relation to the acceptance of claims by participating doctors for the provision of special items of service the following essential conditions must be observed;

- a participating medical practitioner intending to provide a special item of service(s) must inform their Health Board DCC/MOH that he/she wish to provide such a service.

- a participating medical practitioner must assume full clinical responsibility for the special treatments/services which he/she provides.

- Third Party Verification - the Working Group accepted, on the recommendation of the Chairman that there should be third party verification of the special treatments/services included in the extended list. Therefore, special item claims submitted without this verification shall not rank, for payment of the appropriate fee and shall be returned to claimant.

### **Fees**

The level of fee payable in respect of each item is as follows:

For all items with exception of those indicated below: £10.00

Nebuliser treatments: £15.00

Bladder Catheterization: £15.00

Case Conferences: £25.00

Where conferences take place at a location more than three miles from the doctor's centre of practice, travelling expenses at the appropriate public service rate will also be paid.

The fees referred to above relate to an entire treatment and will not apply in the case of individual consultations relating to such treatment.

### **Former District Medical Officers**

Fees applicable in the provision of special items of service shall be payable to former district medical officers currently remunerated on a salary basis. However, the appliances necessary for these special services shall not be supplied by the health boards.

The Working Group will be continuing with discussions on proposals in relation to a number of other issues.

The contents of this Circular shall be considered as forming part of the agreement with registered medical practitioners for the provision of services under Section 58 of the Health Act, 1970.

Mise le meas, D McCarthy M, July, 1989