



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
– Conarthaí CPPL,
Oifig Náisiúnta na gConarthaí,
Páirc Oifigí Bhaile Marlainn,
An Mhuileann gCearr,
Co. na hIarmhí

Office of the Assistant
National Director-
PCCC Contracts,
National Contracts Office,
Marlinstown Office Park,
Mullingar,
Co. Westmeath

Tel: Tel: (044) 93 30762
Facs: Fax: (044) 93 30763

Memorandum

To: Primary Care Unit Managers

From: Mr. Pat O' Dowd, Assistant National Director- Contracts

Date: 12th March 2009

REF No: S0147-NCO-09

Subject: Re Entry to the General Practitioner (GP) Visit Card Contract and subsequently to the General Medical Services (GMS) Scheme

Colleagues,

In accordance with the national arrangements for the introduction of General Practitioner Visit Cards and following agreement through the aegis of the Labour Relations Commission for entry to the GP Visit Card Contract, a limited right of entry was given to fully qualified and approved vocationally trained General Practitioners who were in practice on 1st July 2005 having been in practice for a period of one whole year prior to that date.

The limited contract allowed GPs to accept only such GP Visit Card patients as acquire their GP Visit Cards under the new eligibility provision for a period of five years (or in the case of GPs who were in partnerships on or before 1 July 2005, a period of two years).

Requests have been made for the period of one full year in general practice prior to 1st July 2005 to be recognised as part of the five year period. In view of the current difficulty in recruiting GPs and the manpower shortage predicted over the coming years, it has been agreed that this period can now be reckoned as part of the five year period. As set out in my Circular of 13th June 2007 doctors who were entitled to a GP Visit Contract on 1st July 2005 but did not sign contracts until a later date are entitled to have the relevant period of two or five years calculated from 1st July 2005. This in

effect means that all doctors holding GP Visit Contracts will be eligible for full GMS contracts from 1st July 2009 subject to the normal rules of good character and suitable premises.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pat O'Dowd', written over a horizontal line.

Pat O'Dowd.
Assistant National Director – PCCC (Contracts)