

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER SECTION 58 OF THE HEALTH ACT, 1970, MATERNITY LEAVE

Title: Arrangements for the Provision of Services Under Section 58 of the Health Act, 1970, Maternity Leave

Date: 7 August 1997

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From: Department of Health, Ireland

To: All Health Board Chief Executive Officers

CC: Administrator GP Units

Re: Arrangements for the provision of services under Section 58 of the Health Act, 1970, Maternity Leave

Dear CEO

I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to the recent agreement reached with the Irish Medical Organisation (I.M.O.) concerning the above - the main terms of which were set out in this Department's letter of the 5th June last.

I am to state that, as part of that agreement, the arrangements set out below have been agreed with the IMO in relation to Maternity Leave for General Medical Service (G.M.S.) contracted doctors. These terms, which replace the existing terms in the contract, provide for locum payments on a similar basis to those pertaining in Sick Leave and should be incorporated into existing and future contractual arrangements with effect from the 1st May, 1997:-

Maternity Leave

Medical practitioners with panels of 100 and less than 500 shall be entitled to locum payment in respect of 14 weeks maternity leave. The level of payment shall be equivalent to their capitation earnings during the first and subsequent weeks of maternity leave (not exceeding the current weekly locum payment as specified in the fee schedule published by the General Medical Services (Payments) Board. Locum payment in respect of such leave shall not apply to doctors with panels of less than 100.

A medical practitioner with a list of 500 or more shall be entitled to payment in respect of 14 weeks maternity leave during which the locum arrangement, as for doctors on study leave and sick leave, shall apply. An additional 4 weeks shall be available on grounds analogous to those in the Maternity Protection Act, 1994.

Any queries relating to this Circular letter may be referred to the undersigned at extension 2541.

Yours sincerely

Frank Edwards
GMS Division
7 August 1997