

## GMS DOCTORS CONTRACT - OUT-OF-HOURS WORK

**Title: GMS Doctors Contract - Out-of-Hours Work**

**Date: 6 August 1997**

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**Link: Letter of 5 June 1997**

**From: Department of Health, Ireland**

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

**CC: Administrator GP Unit**

**Re: GMS Doctors Contract - Out-of-Hours work**

Dear CEO

I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to this Department's [letter of the 5th June](#) last in connection with the terms of an agreement reached with the I.M.O. concerning, inter alia, the above matter.

As you will be aware, it is a requirement of the G.M.S doctors' contract that third party verification be provided where doctors carry out consultations during out-of-hours periods.

The revisions to the out-of-hours periods, set out in the above mentioned letter, are effective from the 1st May last. Arrangements are being put in place by the General Medical Services (Payments) Board to accommodate, on its computer systems, claims by doctors for payments for out-of-hours consultations under the revised terms of the contract. In this context and having regard to difficulties which doctors may face in seeking retrospective third party verification, it has been decided, following consultation with the Irish Medical Organisation, that, for the period 1st May to 30th June inclusive, such third party verification will not be required on claims for out-of-hours consultations in respect of the periods which, prior to the revisions, would not have qualified for payment.

I trust this clarifies the matter for you.

Yours sincerely

Frank Edwards

GMS Division

6 August 1997