



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Acute Hospital & Palliative Care Services
Integrated Services Directorate
Health Service Executive,
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18th January 2013

RE: Palliative Care Single Referral Form

Dear Colleague,

Currently, there are approximately 33 referral forms to specialist palliative care services in use across the country. In order to improve efficiency and quality of services, the HSE Clinical Programme for Palliative Care and the ICGP has developed a single referral form that will be used nationwide.

The new referral form will be distributed locally and is also available to print as required at <http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/clinical/natclinprog/pallcareprog.html>. The contact details for the relevant community and outpatient palliative care services are provided on <http://www.icgp.ie/palliative> and <http://www.iapc.ie/iapc-directory.php>

We are now in a position to begin the implementation of the referral form. The switchover begins officially on 1st February. The palliative care services and GPs should then discontinue the use of pre-existing forms. A review of the effectiveness of the implementation of the referral form will be undertaken at 3 and 6 months.

Parallel to the development of this referral form HSE/HIQA has developed a universal outpatient referral template. It has been agreed that GPs may alternatively use this secondary care referral template when making referrals to palliative care with the inclusion of specific information set out by the services. Guidelines for its use are on <http://www.icgp.ie/referral>

I would be most grateful for your assistance in the implementation of this initiative. Please disseminate this letter to your colleagues to ensure all relevant stakeholders are informed.

If you require any clarification or additional information please contact, Brian Lee, Programme Manager brianlee@rcpi.ie or call 01 6698805

Yours sincerely,

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Programme

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