



Primary Care Reimbursement Service
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas,
Dublin 11, D11 YK52

Patricia Ryan T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

1st December, 2020

PQ: 37777 /20

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide for a less onerous system to allow doctors to claim payment for administering the flu vaccine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Patricia Ryan

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 37777/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

General Practitioners have played a key role in the HSE efforts to contain and mitigate the impact on public health during the current COVID-19 Pandemic, including the significant support which was provided by the enhanced 2020 flu vaccine programme and the HSE continues to work closely with the GP community on all aspects of the service. The submission of flu vaccination claims to the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) is online and electronic and has been for many years albeit it is not integrated into GP ICT systems (of which there are multiple systems).

The PCRS claiming system in autumn 2020 facilitated the receipt of 957,991 vaccination claims from the commencement of the campaign to the close of business on 17th November 2020. 2020 Claims were running substantially ahead of 2019. On 17th November 2019, 512,104 flu vaccination claims had been received for the 2019 season compared to the 957,991 claims for the 2020 season as at 17th November 2020. This represented an 87% increase in claims year on year.

By Monday 23rd November, over 1m flu vaccinations had been claimed by some 3,400 primary care contractors online for this year's influenza vaccination campaign.

The HSE has initiated a project to procure a National Immunisation Information System for delivery towards the end of 2021. As part of this work a seamless interface will be developed between the different GP practice systems and the PCRS to facilitate a more efficient vaccination claims process for GPs.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service

The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie