



Christopher O'Sullivan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

29th October 2021

PQ: 49857/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he will investigate and advise on reports that the Primary Care Reimbursement Service is not paying rural general practitioners for the service they provide on Saturday mornings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Christopher O'Sullivan

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 49857/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) is responsible for making more than €3bn in payments to Primary Care Contractors (e.g. General Practitioners, Pharmacists, Dentists, Opticians etc.), suppliers of essential High Tech medicines, Acute Hospitals and others across a range of schemes and arrangements.

Payments totalling in excess of €780m were made to General Practitioners by PCRS in 2020. It should be noted that reimbursement payments to independent practitioners are not salary and practitioners must meet their business expenses out of same.

PCRS has a legal responsibility to ensure that resources are used for the purpose for which they are intended and is obliged to verify the reasonableness and accuracy of all claims submitted for payment.

PCRS continues to reimburse all Primary Care Contractors in accordance with contracts (as amended or varied by Circular).

Arising out of the HSE commitment to make grant payments to Out of Hours co-ops during the Covid-19 pandemic PCRS introduced a validation mechanism for claims made by Co-op members during the hours of operation of grant aided Co-ops.

Where General Practitioners have any queries or concerns in relation to the operation of same there is a specific email contact point provided pcrs.doctorsqueries@hse.ie

Where information is provided that clarifies that any claim held under the validation is in line with contracts PCRS ensures same is paid.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service