



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Circular 004/18

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Eligibility Confirmation

Dear Doctor,

This circular is for information only and you do not need to take any action in relation to it.

As you know, Doctors, Pharmacists and the HSE work together to deliver health services on a free / subsidised basis at the point of care based on an individual's eligibility. With over 1.6 million Medical Card holders eligible at any point in time, it is a challenge for all concerned to manage the issue of eligibility.

In that context, in recent months there has been an opportunity to identify some enhancements to technology used by GPs which can assist. The objective is always to ensure that eligible persons have access to the correct level of free / subsidised care. However, there is no expectation that a GP, Pharmacist nor the HSE would provide free health services in the normal course of events to persons who are not eligible.

Working with the suppliers of software to GPs, the following enhancement will be available shortly and this circular is part of the associated communication package.

When the GP Practice system prints a prescription, the Medical Card number will display as normal on the face of the prescription for patients with full eligibility. However, with reference to the HSE's eligibility confirmation service, the term "Check Validity" will display on the prescription instead of the Medical Card number when full eligibility does not exist.

The removal of the Medical Card number of the prescription when full eligibility does not exist, in favour of the term "Check Validity" will ensure that a pharmacist does not inadvertently dispense medicine without the appropriate charge applied. Once full eligibility is confirmed with reference to the HSE's eligibility confirmation service, patients will continue to access their medicine in their pharmacy in the normal way.

It should be noted that both GP and Pharmacy technology can use the eligibility confirmation service on an automated basis and this can provide for the management of this issue without any manual intervention. This automated approach is recommended by the HSE to prevent any unnecessary administrative burden.

Your co-operation with this enhancement is appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Marie Hoey
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility