



3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

Circular No. 037/18

### Re Phased Dispensing

Dear Doctor,

The purpose of this circular is to outline enhanced validation arrangements for submitting phased dispensing claims effective from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Previous correspondence of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 continues to apply.

There are a number of reasons previously agreed as appropriate in which Phased Dispensing may be the subject of a valid claim.

1. At the request of a patient's physician;
2. Due to the inherent nature of a medicinal product i.e. product stability and shelf life;
3. Where a patient is commencing new drug therapy with a view to establishing patient tolerance and acceptability before continuing on a full treatment regimen;
4. In exceptional circumstances where the patient is incapable of safely and effectively managing the medication regimen

An approval mechanism for prior authorisation for phased dispensing for reasons 1 & 4 above was introduced for pharmacy in April 2017. Phased Dispensing is a growing area of expenditure and it is now necessary to extend the prior authorisation to General Practitioners. Thus, from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018, prior approval for 'phased dispensing' claims will be necessary for all newly initiated 'phased dispensing' patients for subsequent reimbursement to pharmacy.

On the GP Application Suite, from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018, General Practitioners will find an enhanced 'Phased Dispensing' Application which includes three additional mandatory fields for completion (appendix 1):

1. I declare and accept that the phasing of medication means that the medicine will be provided to the patient on multiple supply occasions
2. I confirm that it is unsafe for the patient for the patient to obtain the totality of their medication on a single supply occasion.

3. I understand that the delivery of medicine using a Monitored Dosage System (MDS/Blister Pack) does not constitute Phased Dispensing.

General Practitioners seeking phased dispensing for their GMS patients will be required to complete the above fields before phased dispensing will be authorised.

It is important to note that blister packing and phased dispensing are two separate processes. Phased Dispensing requires the patient to present to the pharmacy on multiple occasions in the month e.g. each week for dispensing of medicines whereas blister packing is where the medication is given in one visit and is packaged to indicate when medication should be taken.

Phased Dispensing should only be requested by a GP in circumstances where the doctor believes that it is unsafe for the patient to obtain the totality of their medication on a single supply occasion. If you believe that it is safe for your patients to have the totality of their month's medicines, then phased dispensing is not appropriate to their needs.

I trust that this clarifies the matter arising and look forward to your cooperation in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Marie Hoey  
Primary Care Reimbursement and Eligibility



## Phased Applications

Username: PHASED\_DOCTOR\_USER

Email address on your account is not unique ( [Change email](#) )

[Home](#)

[New Application](#)

[Application History](#)

[Help](#)

[Logout](#)

### New Application

Medical Card Number: \*

Patient Name: \*

Period: \*

Please Select period of Eligibility



Please Explain clinical risks: \*

Patient on Psychotropic Drug

Patient is on five or more oral prescription drugs

\* I declare and accept that the phasing of medication means that the medicine will be provided to the patient on multiple supply occasions

\* I confirm that it is unsafe for the patient to obtain the totality of their medication on a single supply occasion.

\* I understand that the delivery of medicine using a Monitored Dosage System (MDS/ Blister Pack) does not constitute Phased Dispensing.