



27 August 2018

Circular No: 024 /18

GP Visit Card for persons in receipt of Carer's Allowance or Carer's Benefit

Dear Doctor,

The Health (General Practitioner Service) Act 2018 provides for the grant of eligibility for GP services without charge to all those in receipt of full, or half-rate, Carer's Allowance or Carer's Benefit. This measure will benefit approximately 14,000 persons who do not currently hold a Medical Card or GP Visit Card.

This initiative re-enforces the Government's aim under the National Carers Strategy to recognise and respect carers as key care partners. The strategy seeks to respond to their needs so that they are supported to maintain their own health and well-being and to care with confidence.

In the interest of patient convenience and the efficiency of the patient registration process, the HSE will have in place an electronic registration facility which, with the co-operation of GP's, will allow patients to complete the registration process end to end (including on-line acceptance through the GP Application Suite, or otherwise of the patient by their GP of choice). The registration process will commence on the 27th August 2018 so that GP care can commence from 1st September 2018 for those patients whose registration is complete.

Alternatively, patients who do not have access to online services (www.mymedicalcard.ie) may opt to complete a GP Visit Card for Carers Registration Form (attached) which is available from HSE Community Health Offices, Citizen Information Centres or by calling 1890 252 919. Patients, upon completing this form, may present to you to become their GP of Choice.

All persons who already hold active Medical Card or GP Visit Card eligibility from a previous application retain this eligibility. There is no requirement for them to also register for eligibility on the GP Visit Card for Carers scheme.

The HSE acknowledges GP co-operation with online acceptance for existing schemes including GP Visit Cards for those aged under 6 and persons aged 70 & over and Medical Cards for children in respect of whom a Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) is payable.

Should you require further clarification please call the HSE's GP Medical Card Support line at 1890 252 920.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Marie Hoey
Primary Care Reimbursement and Eligibility