



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil
Bealach amach 5 an M50
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Circular 047/16

4th October 2016

Re: GMS Prescribing

Dear Doctor,

On occasion circumstances may arise where a GP may believe that it is clinically appropriate that patients monthly medicinal requirements are dispensed in phases i.e. across multiple supply occasions. Typically this would be within a period of one month from the first dispensing.

Under Phased Dispensing rules as agreed between the HSE and the IPU, the circumstances in which Phased Dispensing may be the subject of a valid claim are:

- a. Where it is at the request of the patients physician;
- b. Due to the inherent nature of the medicinal product (i.e. product stability and shelf life);
- c. Where a patient is commencing a new drug therapy with a view to establishing patient tolerance and acceptability before continuing on a full treatment regimen; or
- d. In exceptional circumstances where the patient is incapable of safely and effectively managing their medication regimen.

For the avoidance of doubt, phased dispensing is not a Monitored Dosage System (MDS) service. MDS services are not encompassed by any state reimbursement arrangements. However pharmacists may choose to provide a monitored dosage system service as a quality improvement to patients who they believe might benefit. The provision of this service does not under any circumstance mean a pharmacist may automatically claim a phased dispensing fee.

In circumstances where the prescribing GP deems that a patient should not be issued with the full supply of medication on a single dispensing occasion the GP should exercise their independent clinical judgement and in such cases, write 'Phased Dispensing' on the GMS prescription.

Thank you for your cooperation

Yours faithfully,

Anne Marie Hoey
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility