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Health Service Executive

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## Reimbursement of Health Costs for EHIC holders

Circular 013/14

Dear Doctor,

28<sup>th</sup> March 2014

A resident of a State in the European Union or European Economic Area, on a temporary visit to Ireland and who has a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) from that State is entitled to receive necessary general medical services both GP and Pharmacy. In addition, Ireland has a reciprocal arrangement with the UK, which entitles UK residents on a temporary visit to Ireland to receive necessary services on production of the specified documentation. Necessary service covers the treatment required to allow the visitor continue his/her temporary stay in Ireland and return home as previously planned.

The Health Service Executive, as the competent institution in Ireland for the provision of health services under EU Regulations 883/04 and 987/09, is required to recoup the costs of provision of health services in Ireland for EHIC holders from other EU/EAA States.

In the past there have been arrangements between many States to waive the costs associated with these services. Recent interpretation of the Regulations now requires Member States to fully reimburse each other in respect of the costs incurred. As a result the HSE will in future be required to submit a detailed account in respect of the costs incurred for each patient to the Member State responsible for the provision of health care.

In order to prepare these accounts in line with the EU approved protocols it will be necessary to collect the required information at the point of provision of service to eligible persons. The information required to submit a valid claim includes, the prescription serial number if applicable, and the patient identification data from the individuals European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) as follows:

- State Identifier
- Client's Name
- Client's Date of Birth
- Client's Personal Identification Number
- Identification Number of the Competent Institution
- Identification Number of the EHIC
- EHIC Expiry Date

It is envisaged that the administrative requirement to confirm and record the required information, set out above, will not be unduly onerous, given that the average number of EHIC claims submitted annually by individual General Practitioners is 7 claims.

As this is a statutory requirement of the Department of Health and the HSE, the collection of the above information will be incorporated into the Special Type Consultation Claims process from the 1 May 2014. In other words for such claims to be deemed valid, and therefore reimbursable, the claiming GP must ensure that the above information is included in respect of each individual claim.

In the case of a UK resident there is a separate arrangement for the calculation of costs. It is necessary to confirm the identity of persons from the UK receiving a service. If the person does not have an EHIC, this can be achieved by recording the following information:

- Client's Name
- Client's Date of Birth
- NHS Number i.e. numeric in the form of 123 456 7899 or
- Passport Number i.e. numeric in the form of 123456789 or
- Driving License Number i.e. alpha numeric in the form of MURPHMA123456789 or 123456789 or
- National Insurance Number i.e. alpha numeric in the form of AB123456C

If a person from the UK presents with an EHIC, the number of the card should be recorded as outlined above. It is important for a practice to retain a copy of the documentation confirming the person's identity.

Persons who are deemed to be ordinarily resident in Ireland are not covered by the scheme. Such persons may be eligible for a medical card. Alternatively they may have to pay fees as a private patient. If you have reason to believe that a person, while in possession of appropriate documentation, is in fact ordinarily resident in Ireland, that person should be asked to either have his/her eligibility under the medical card scheme confirmed by the HSE or, pay fees as a private patient.

If you have any query on the gathering or use of EHIC information, please contact the HSE EU Regulations Office at [euregulations@hse.ie](mailto:euregulations@hse.ie)

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,



Patrick Burke  
Primary Care Reimbursement Service

The following diagram maps the source the pieces of required information on an example EHIC.

# EHIC Layout

