



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil
Bealach amach 5 an M50, An Bóthar Thuaidh, Fionnghlas
Baile Átha Cliath 11, D11 XKF3
Guthán: (01) 864 7100 Facs: (01) 834 3589

Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 XKF3
Tel: (01) 864 7100 Fax: (01) 834 3589

3 May 2017

Circular No. 018 / 17

Phased Dispensing

Dear Doctor,

I refer to previous correspondence Circular 47 / 16.

Under Phased Dispensing rules the circumstances in which Phased Dispensing may be the subject of a valid claim are

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

From 1st May 2017, functionality will be made available through the Doctor Application Suite to GPs who wish to enroll patients for phased dispensing services without writing 'Phased Dispensing' on the face of the GMS prescription. Where a GP completes the application, it will be automatically approved and contemporaneously visible to the Pharmacist through the Pharmacy Application Suite.

Where the GP has made a request to the dispensing pharmacy by writing the words 'Phased Dispensing' on the face of the GMS prescription, the pharmacy has the functionality through the Pharmacy Application Suite to select Reason 1 and upload a copy of the GP prescription displaying the doctor's instruction for phased dispensing.

Phased Dispensing must be written on the face of the prescription each month unless the GP enrolls the patient through the GP application suite for ongoing phased dispensing services. If the patient is 80 and over, when enrolled through the GP application suite, such approval would then be lifelong. The GP application suite is being updated accordingly and a screen shot is attached to this communication.

You are reminded that where nursing supervision is available in a patient's residential setting, phased dispensing claims cannot be submitted for payment by the pharmacy. Some claims are presented as four separate prescriptions, each for one week's supply. It remains our position that such circumvention of the HSE's policy for nursing home patients is not acceptable.


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

Yours sincerely,

Anne Marie Hoey,
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility

Phased Applications

The Doctor Application Suite will host further functionality (Phased Applications) to enable you to register patients for phased dispensing:



Phased Applications

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

[New Application](#) [Application History](#) [Logout](#)

Medical Card Number: *

Name: *

Period: *

Please Explain clinical risks:

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To register specific patients for phased dispensing, please provide the following details online:

1. The patient's Medical Card Number- this will populate the patient's name.
2. The period of eligibility; 6 months, 2 years (24 months) or lifelong.