



Circular 0023/21

3rd September 2021

Re: Out of Hours Claims by members of Grant Aided Out of Hours Co-ops

Dear Doctor,

I refer to the grant based system of funding GP Out Of Hours Co-operatives introduced in March 2020 in the context of the current National Public Health Emergency, which formed part of a package of GP service oriented support measures agreed with the Irish Medical Organisation.

In accordance with the aforementioned agreement, no Out of Hours or other claims for consultations during Co-op hours of operation are claimable by the Co-op or their members from the PCRS.

A retrospective review of paid Out of Hours claims for Co-op members of grant aided Co-ops has been conducted. It has been established that a number of Co-op members made out of hours claims during the period of operation of their Co-op. Consequently, the PCRS has introduced a validation mechanism rejecting claims made by Co-op members during the hours of operation of grant aided Co-ops.

The PCRS will also conduct a retrospective review of claims paid to Co-op members during Co-op hours of operation and having regard to the terms of the agreement on support measures for GP services set out in relevant Circulars, will recoup invalid claims.

If you have any queries in relation to the above please contact pcrs.doctorsqueries@hse.ie.

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan,
Assistant National Director
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service