



Oifig an Straitéis Chúraim Phríomha agus an Phleanála Stiúirthóir  
Cúnta Náisiúnta  
HSE, Urlár 2, Páirc Ghnó Samhail, Model Farm Road, Corcaigh  
Tel: 021-4928512 R: [primarycare.strategy@hse.ie](mailto:primarycare.strategy@hse.ie)

Office of the Assistant National Director Primary Care  
Strategy and Planning  
HSE, Floor 2, Model Business Park, Model Farm Road, Cork  
Tel: 021-4928512 Email: [primarycare.strategy@hse.ie](mailto:primarycare.strategy@hse.ie)

Date: 29th of October 2020  
NCO Circular- NCO-16-2020

### **Paternity Leave**

Dear Doctor,

As you will be aware the 2019 GP Agreement extended Paternity Leave provisions for eligible GMS GPs from 3 days to 14 days.

An eligible GMS GP can now avail of the new Paternity leave provisions, including the extension of the number of days from 3 to 14 days special leave with pay in respect of children born on or after the 1st of July 2019. This leave may be taken by eligible GPs at the time of birth or up to 26 weeks after the birth.

Paternity Leave shall comprise a single period of 2 weeks except in situations where the child is hospitalised. In these circumstances the GP must notify the HSE to obtain approval. In the case of Adoptive leave, the leave may be taken on or up to 26 weeks after the date of placement of the Child. In the cases where there are two or more children born or two or more Children adopted, the entitlement to Paternity Leave will be 14 days for each child; e.g. where twins are born, the father would be entitled to 28 days paid leave.

#### **Claim submission:**

A fully completed MLF/2 form should be submitted to the Primary Care Eligibility and Reimbursement Service (PCERS) when claiming for Paternity leave. This form is available from your Local Health Office and should include HSE Manager approval before being submitted to the PCERS. A copy of the Medical Certificate, which is issued to the mother during Maternity Leave, should be attached to the completed MLF/2 form sent to the HSE.

I trust the foregoing clarifies the current provisions pertaining to paternity leave arrangements under the GMS Contracts (i.e. Medical card, GP Visit Card and Under 6 contracts) arising from the 2019 Agreement but if you require any further information in this matter you may contact the National Contracts Office at [natcontractsoffice@hse.ie](mailto:natcontractsoffice@hse.ie)

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley'.

**Geraldine Crowley**  
**Assistant National Director,**  
**Primary Care Strategy and Planning**