



**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2023**  
**Circular Number: NCO-04-2024**

**RE: Temporary Supports for General Practice – UEC – Extension to 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 Inclusive**

Dear Doctor,

In follow up to my Circular dated 20<sup>th</sup> of December Reference number NCO-51-2023 I wish to advise that it has been agreed by the HSE with the support of the Department of Health and following agreement with the Irish Medical Organisation to further extend the current Temporary Supports for Day Time Practice to the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 2024 inclusive.

The following STC Rate of €41.63 will be available to GPs for GMS patients from 8am to 9am (inclusive) and from 5pm – 7pm (inclusive) Monday to Friday and from 9am -1pm (inclusive) on Saturday. It is recognised that all GP sessions are a mix of GMS and private patients and that practice should continue for the extended/additional sessions with private patients paying as normal and in line with practice policy.

It is recognised that not all practices will be in a position to undertake the additional hours and it is further acknowledged that there is a requirement to protect GP time in terms of their commitment to Out of Hours services, which will continue to operate during these hours.

All claims for reimbursement are to be submitted in the normal way for STCs through PCRS online portal or manual in line with existing practice protocols and should be submitted no later than three to five working days of the consultation. In line with existing practices all forms must be signed by the individual patient noting the date and time of consultation.

These measures are exceptional in nature, time bound and do not erode, substitute for or replace existing legislative, circular or contractual terms pertaining to the General Medical Services Contract with GPs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all GPs and practice team for their continued support during these Winter Period challenges.

If you have any queries on the above please contact the National Contracts office by email [natcontractsoffice@hse.ie](mailto:natcontractsoffice@hse.ie) or by phone 044 9395519

Yours sincerely,

**Pat Healy**  
**National Director**  
**Clinical Programme Implementation**  
**& Professional Development**