



Date: 22nd December, 2021

Circular Number: NCO-12-2021

Arrangement with General Practitioners in Context of Roll Out of Accelerated Covid-19 Booster Vaccination Programme

Dear Doctor,

As you will be aware the HSE is progressing the implementation of the above Accelerated Booster Vaccination Programme in line with the nationally agreed guidance established by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC).

General Practitioners, who have already made a very significant positive contribution to efforts to manage this public health crisis since the outbreak of Covid-19 in the spring of 2020, will play a key role in the delivery of the Accelerated Vaccination Programme. As you will be aware the Chief Clinical Officer, Dr. Colm Henry has in place an ongoing process of engagement with General Practice since the commencement of the pandemic through the CCO forum. In addition the HSE continues to liaise closely with the IMO through our well established engagement processes and you will already have received correspondence and documentation relating to the agreed rollout of this accelerated Covid 19 Booster vaccination programme, including the clinical guidance from the NIO and the Chief Clinical Officer.

As set out in that correspondence, NIAC has recommended mRNA boosters for everyone aged 16 and over who have completed their primary COVID-19 vaccination course and have recommended an order of priority in which groups should be vaccinated.

The following groups are being invited to receive a booster jab.

- adults aged 50 years or over or,
- persons aged 16 and over living in a nursing home or a long-term healthcare facility or
- persons aged 16 years and over an underlying condition or a healthcare worker,

In addition to the recommendations listed above, participating GPs may now in next order of priority, offer a booster dose of an mRNA vaccine as recommended to:

- all pregnant women aged 16 years and older
- people aged 40-49 years
- people aged 16-39 years in descending order by age cohort; 30 - 39 years, 20 - 29 years and 16 -19 years.

Those aged 16 - 29 years who received COVID-19 vaccine Janssen can be offered a booster vaccine in parallel with those aged 30 - 39 years.



Patients aged 30 years and over are to receive the Moderna vaccine and patients aged under 30 years are to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

The overriding clinical imperative is to have as many of the population as possible vaccinated within the next few weeks.

In this context, the following fee rates will be paid to GPs involved in the delivery of the Accelerated Covid-19 Booster Vaccination Programme until the end of January 2022 only.

- The rate to be paid for vaccinations administered by GPs is **€25 per dose**.
- Recognising that it is likely that there will be a greater administrative burden than applies to existing vaccines, and given the level of flexibility required in the delivery of this accelerated programme, a **once-off administration fee will apply under the Accelerated Programme**, given the expected requirements in relation to identification of relevant cohorts from records, etc.
- The structure of this administration fee will be €200 for every 20 individuals to whom the GP has administered a booster vaccine against Covid 19 under the accelerated programme. This is a single administration fee for the processing of each cohort of 20 persons. Given the complexities associated with this feature of the fee structure it will be necessary for PCERS to process these payments as a single payment to GPs in quarter 1 of 2022.
- GPs will not be entitled to receive any other fees such as out of hours or temporary resident fees for administering a covid booster vaccine.

I would like to once again express the HSE's gratitude to General Practitioners and their Teams for their commendable efforts to-date as a key part of the system wide approach to managing this unprecedented public health emergency and I have no doubt that GPs and their Teams will continue with their exceptional contribution in this national effort in the Covid-19 Accelerated Booster Vaccination Programme in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Healy'.

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