



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Seirbhís Aisíoca Príomhchúraim  
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An Bóthar Thuaidh  
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Circular No. 003/11

1 March 2011

**Re: Implementation of Review of GP Out of Hours Service Recommendation 11.3**

Dear Doctor,

Following acceptance of the National Review of GP Out of Hours' Services, consultation has taken place with the Irish Medical Organisation (IMO) and GP Co-Op representatives regarding the findings and recommendations of the Review. A number of meetings have been held with the IMO regarding the implementation of the recommendations. Arising from these discussions the IMO requested the HSE to leave existing arrangements regarding Out of Hours in place until the 1 March 2011 and this was agreed.

Recommendation 11.3 referred to Payments to GPs

*'All future payments to GPs should be on the basis of claims that would be submitted online via the call management system, to the PCRS. This process will facilitate a full audit trail of payments to GPs and the cessation of any parallel claims'*

With effect from March 2011, all payments to GPs who are members of the Out of Hours Co-Ops will be validated by reference to claims recorded on the Co-Op System. This system records where an urgent out of hour's treatment was provided to the holder of a valid medical card in a treatment centre or a home visit. The System will provide the full audit trail necessary to confirm a patient treatment and in some cases that a Special Item of Service was administered. Payment will be based on the fee rate set in the Regulations.

Commencing with March 2011, each Co-Op will forward an electronic file of activity during the calendar month to the PCRS. The file will be submitted in the first 2 working days of the following month (i.e. by 4 April 2011 in respect of March 2011 claims), in the specified format agreed with Co-Op Management.

The new validation will reconcile GP claims to Co-Op records and while this new payment validation is being implemented, Out of Hours claims should continue to be submitted to the PCRS in the normal way, until further notice. In the event of claims being submitted, which do not reconcile to records on the Co-Op system these claims will be communicated to the GP concerned for resolution.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Burke  
Primary Care Reimbursement Service