



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seirbhís Aisióca Príomhchúraim
Bealach amach 5 an M50
An Bóthar Thuaidh
Fionnghlas
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Circular no. 014/2013

1st August 2013

Dear Doctor,

I refer to Circular no. 009/2013 and to Statutory Instrument 277 of 2013, which was included with Circular no. 009/2013.

I wish to advise that the Minister for Health made Regulations on 24th July 2013 to reduce payments to General Practitioners in respect of the GMS, the Maternity & Infant Care Scheme, the Health (Amendment) Act 1996, Heartwatch and National Immunisation Programmes. In accordance with section 9 (3) of the FEMPI Act 2009, the Regulations are effective from the 24th July 2013.

These regulations give effect to decisions of the Minister for Health following review of fees and allowances paid to general practitioners in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2009. The Minister's decision has the following effect:

- Elimination of special fee payable in respect of Discretionary Medical Cards
- Reduction in the 3:1 panel weighting for patients over 70 years to 2:1
- Reduction of 3.1% in other superannuable fees, such as capitation fees; fees in respect of asylum seekers / non EU nationals; and supplementary out-of-hours payments
- A 7.5% reduction in respect of other non superannuable fees, such as fees / allowances for Out-of-Hours work; STCs; Special Items of Service (excluding immunisation); Rural Practice Allowance; Dispensing; Second Medical Opinion; Locum Cover; various payments under Fee-per-Item Contract, Health (Amendment) Act 1996, the Maternity & Infant Care Scheme and Heartwatch
- Reduction of 1% in the practice nurse/secretary support payment
- Reduction in the influenza vaccination fee payable to €15.00

I would draw your attention to the provisions of section 9 (8) of the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act, 2009. Section 9 (8) allows a General Practitioner Contractor who does not wish to continue to render services on behalf of the HSE on the basis of the new payment arrangements to withdraw his/her services if he/she so wish following 30 days written notice of his/her intention to do so. In any such event, Section 9 (9) of the Act allows the HSE to engage the services of another professional to ensure that services continue to be available.

I hope the foregoing clarifies matters in relation to the revised fee schedules for you.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Burke
Primary Care Reimbursement Service