



17th July 2019

Circular 26/19

Re: Phased Dispensing

Dear Pharmacist,

In 2017, the HSE introduced an authorisation procedure for patients for whom phased dispensing claims had not been submitted previously (Ref: Pharmacy Circular 013/17). Where a GP completed the application, it was automatically approved for phased dispensing through the GP Application Suite.

A number of patients who had been automatically approved for phased dispensing, as the GP practice had enrolled the patient, will be called into review by the PCRS. It is intended to conduct these reviews over the next three months.

GPs will have the opportunity to review the selected patients (those who on desktop review do not appear to require this level of supervision) and if they decide that the patient should continue to access a phased dispensing service, they can re-apply for phased dispensing through the GP Application Suite. If no action is taken by the practice, then the patient's approval for phased dispensing will cease.

In order to confirm a patient's eligibility for Phased Dispensing, you can access the 'Secure Scheme Checker' on the Pharmacy Application Suite and under 'Patient Specific Arrangements', the Phased Status of a patient can be found.

It is important to note that blister packing and phased dispensing are two separate processes. Phased Dispensing requires the patient to present to the pharmacy on multiple occasions in the month e.g. each week for dispensing of medicines whereas blister packing is where the medication is given in one visit and is packaged to indicate when medication should be taken. There are no reimbursement arrangements agreed with the Department of Health for Blister pack or Monitored Dosage Systems.

May I remind you that our calls are recorded for training, quality assurance and verification purposes. Please refer to our PCRS Privacy Statement on our web site for further information.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Marie Hoey'.

Anne Marie Hoey
Primary Care Reimbursement Service