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Circular No 26/10

18th November 2010

RE: Claiming Procedures

Dear Pharmacist,

Community Pharmacists will be aware of ongoing PCRS post processing reviews and HSE pharmacy inspections.

In the interests of clarity and processing efficiency, you are reminded that duplication of items (code numbers) on GMS prescription forms is not allowed, other than where appropriately used in respect of Extemporaneous Dispensing, Non Dispensing and Phased Dispensing. The circumstances in which Non Dispensing and Phased Dispensing properly arise are set out in the Administrative Guidelines for Pharmacists. In the case of Unified Claim Forms, duplicate code numbers should only arise in respect of Extemporaneous Dispensing.

We have identified a number of instances where pharmacists appear to be duplicating items inappropriately, for example, claims for the GMS Code Number 81165, High Calorie Sip Feed 200ml pack, have been split into separate items to facilitate multiple flavours. Recording patient flavour preferences through replication of the same item (GMS Code Number) is not appropriate, as it results in an erroneous additional GMS fee being claimed. In addition, there is no entitlement to multiple Non Dispensing Fees arising from the non-supply of different flavours of a stated clinical nutritional product on the same GMS prescription form.

For clarity I wish to confirm that such duplicate items will not be paid, other than where appropriately used in respect of Extemporaneous Dispensing, Non Dispensing and Phased Dispensing. Such items will appear on Exception Files or Reclaim Listings for advice or correction.

I also wish to advise that from October 2010 European Economic Area (EEA) claims will appear on your Detailed Payment list with GMS Claims for that month. In the case of October claims the relevant mark up is paid and shown as an Adjustment on your Summary Listing.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Burke

Primary Care Reimbursement Services