



**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2021**

**Circular Number: NCO-13-2021**

### **Arrangement with Community Pharmacists in Context of Roll Out of Accelerated Covid-19 Booster Vaccination Programme**

Dear Pharmacist,

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

Community Pharmacists, 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 Covid 19 Booster Vaccination Programme. The HSE continues to liaise closely with the IPU and PSI through our pharmacy working group which meets weekly.

Community Pharmacies participating in the Accelerated Programme are requested to vaccinate the following groups with a booster jab.

- healthcare workers
- people with underlying conditions (categories 4 and 7)
- people aged 40 years and over
- pregnant women

Groups to vaccinate may change as the national programme extends in line with NIAC advice.

Please note that 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 Community Pharmacists 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 Community Pharmacists 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.



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- The structure of this administration fee will be €200 for every 20 individuals to whom the Community Pharmacist 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 Community Pharmacists in quarter 1 of 2022.

I would like to once again express the HSE's gratitude to Pharmacists 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 Pharmacists 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**