Circular 020/15

1st October 2015

Re: S.I. No. 382 of 2015

Prescription Charge Exemption for Asylum Seekers Living in Direct Provision

Dear Pharmacist,

The Minister for Health made Regulations on 8th September 2015 to exempt persons, with full eligibility i.e. valid medical card, living in Direct Provision from prescription charges payable for prescribed drugs, medicines and appliances reimbursed under the GMS Scheme.

It is envisaged that a person, living in Direct Provision, will indicate their exemption from prescription charges when presenting to a pharmacy. Pharmacists, through the enhanced visibility system available to them, can check under Patient Specific Arrangements and verify if the person is exempt from prescription charges. A prescription charge will not be deducted from your GMS payment in respect of persons confirmed as exempt from prescription charges.

The list of exempt persons will be updated on a regular basis. If a patient believes they are exempt from prescription charges but are not listed on the enhanced visibility system please advise them to contact us on 1890 252 919 for further assistance.

To confirm that you have access to the enhanced visibility system, please proceed to www.pcrs.ie choosing the "Online Services" option and then the Pharmacy Application Suite option. If you cannot access the Pharmacy Application Suite please choose the 'Security Certificate Registration Form' option and follow the instructions provided.

Your co-operation is appreciated.

Yours faithfully ,

Anne Marie Hoey,
Assistant National Director,
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility.