



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Seirbhís Aisíoca Príomhchúraim
Bealach amach 5 an M50
An Bóthar Thuaidh
Fionnghlas
Baile Átha Cliath 11

Guthán: (01) 864 7100
Facs: (01) 834 3589

Health Service Executive
Primary Care Reimbursement Service
Exit 5, M50
North Road
Finglas
Dublin 11

Tel: (01) 864 7100
Fax: (01) 834 3589

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Reimbursement Approval Process for New Oral Anticoagulant

Dear Pharmacist,

The purpose of this circular is to update you about improvements to the Individual Reimbursement Approval process for a New Oral Anticoagulant.

You will be aware of HSE policy that Warfarin is the first line treatment for Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation (SPAF) and the requirement for prior approval where one of the New Oral Anticoagulants (NOAC) is prescribed (Circular 10/12 refers). The HSE has previously written to prescribers setting out improvements to this application process. We have developed an online application process (Circular 10/14 refers) which incorporates the Medicines Management Programme (MMP) patient safety alerts and which replaces the paper application process.

Applications from prescribers without completed safety alerts will not be accepted by the HSE from 1 May 2015. Hospitals and Clinics still presenting paper applications have received notification of this requirement in recent weeks.

The online process used by prescribers operates as follows

1. The prescriber applies online and is provided with an individual 'request number'.
2. Where no safety alerts are raised and the patient has valid established eligibility, the patient will be automatically approved. The prescriber can now print the HSE letter of approval in these circumstances for the patient for subsequent presentation at the dispensing pharmacy.
3. If a safety alert is triggered, the Prescriber is asked to confirm that they wish to proceed with the application. Where the prescriber confirms that they wish to proceed with the application, the PCRS will generate a letter of approval. The MMP are monitoring such prescribing behaviour and may contact individual prescribers in this regard.
4. Where the patient has no valid established eligibility i.e. GMS Number or DPS Number, the patient can be clinically approved for a NOAC and will receive a letter of approval from the PCRS. To avoid any issue claiming in these cases, the agreed emergency registration process for the Drugs Payment Scheme should be used.
5. The hospital emergency dispensing arrangements will apply to those NOAC formulations licensed for Stroke Prevention in patients with Atrial Fibrillation. However, it is important to note that Individual Reimbursement Approval is still required prior to month end.
6. Where an application is received through the online process, the NOAC approval persists even when the patient's eligibility changes from a Medical Card to DPS or vice versa.

Other relevant information with regard to the processing of NOAC claims:

- a) Claims for the dispensing of NOACs can now be accepted for reimbursement when written on GMS repeat prescriptions.
- b) Dabigatran 75mg and Rivaroxaban 10mg are not licensed for SPAF and will not be approved for this indication. (MMP letter of March 14 refers).
- c) While NOACs are on the core list for persons with Diabetes Mellitus, it remains the case that the prescriber must have previously completed an Individual Reimbursement Request including the safety alerts.

To assist Pharmacists, the HSE has been considering ways to improve visibility of patient specific arrangements such as the arrangements for NOACs.

From April 2015, the HSE will publish a new version of the eligibility confirmation web service which can be integrated into your dispensary computer system. The vast majority of pharmacists are already using computer software which has an existing version of this web service integrated.

The enhanced version includes the following additional features;

- Full visibility of the patient demographic details, i.e. name, address, date of birth and gender. The current version shows the patients date of birth and gender only.
- Visibility of the current eligibility or eligibilities, i.e. GMS, DPS, LTI, HAA, High Tech
- Visibility of Patient specific arrangements to include
 - Approval for New Oral Anti-Coagulants
 - Other individual reimbursement arrangements which the HSE expect to implement during 2015
- This service is secured and available to pharmacists who have PCRS security certificates installed (i.e. pharmacists who submit claims to PCRS electronically).

The PCRS recognises that it takes time for the integration of new versions of our web services and therefore the information is also visible online via the PCRS Pharmacy Application Suite. This web site is also immediately available to pharmacists. All of those pharmacists providing vaccination services are already using this web site regularly.

Facilities available to pharmacists using the web site include,

- Online vaccination submissions
- Online access to electronic versions of current and archived itemised listings (in PDF format)
- Visibility of patient specific arrangements as outlined above.

To confirm that you have access to the PCRS Pharmacy Application Suite, 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 then please choose the 'Security Certificate Registration Form' option and follow the instructions provided.

I trust that these improved arrangements will enhance the operation of the scheme from both patients' and your own perspective.

Yours faithfully,



Patrick Burke
Primary Care Reimbursement Service