

May, 2004

Each Chief Executive
Health Boards/ERHA/Voluntary Hospitals/Mental Handicap Agencies

Each Director of Human Resources
Health Boards/ERHA

DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND
CHILDREN
AN ROINN
SLAINTE AGUS LEANAÍ

Re: Additions to the Working Visa/Work Authorisation Scheme

As you are aware, the scope of the Working Visa/Work Authorisation Scheme to facilitate the recruitment of non-European Economic Area (EEA - EU countries, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland) nationals was extended to include those with specific expertise in the medical, health and social care sectors for employment in the public health service in May 2002.

At that time, it was decided that the following range of professionals would be covered by the scheme:

Medical Practitioner, Dentist, Diagnostic or Therapeutic Radiographer, Dietician, Occupational Therapist, Orthoptist, Medical Physicist, Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist, Social Worker, Medical Scientist, Physiotherapist, Hospital Pharmacist, ECG Technician, Neurophysiological Measurement Technician, Cardiac Catheterisation Technician, Audiologist, Biochemist.

It has now been agreed that the list should be extended to include Respiratory Technicians, Vascular Technicians and GI function technicians. These technicians obtain the same qualification as cardiac catheterisation technicians and neurophysiological measurement technicians. The same strict procedures for the employment of persons from non-EEA countries will apply as for the other Health and Social Care Professions listed under the scheme.

These procedures are detailed in the information leaflet on the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment website at www.entemp.ie/labour/workpermits/authorisation.htm

Particular attention is drawn to the requirement by the employer to provide confirmation of the validity of the job offer and the employer's satisfaction regarding the individual's registration status to the visa-issuing mission as outlined on page 3 of the information

leaflet. The employer should provide their contact details on the applicant's job offer. The visa-issuing mission will then be in a position to contact the employer to request them to provide confirmation of the job offer and validation/registration as appropriate.

If you have any queries please contact Anne Tighe at **01-6354705** or by E-mail at Anne.Tighe@health.irlgov.ie or Ruth Dunne at **01-6354041** or by E-mail at Ruth.Dunne@health.irlgov.ie.



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