

Circular 33/2003

7 July 2003

Chief Executive Officer  
Each Health Board/ERHA

Each Public Voluntary Hospital  
outside ERHA



DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND  
CHILDREN  
AN ROINN  
SLÁINTE AGUS LEANAÍ

Quail and Partners  
A Health System for You

### Re: Theatre Nurses - On Call Payments

1. I am directed by the Minister for Health and Children to refer to the revised national on call rates for Theatre Nurses agreed at a conciliation conference at the Labour Relations Commission on 25 February 2003.
2. The revised rates are as follows:-

<b>(i) On call with Standby – Each Day</b>	
Monday to Friday	€35.68
Saturday	€45.83
Sunday and Public Holiday	€61.95

All of these figures are based on a 12 hour period.  
Pro rata to apply after 12 hours.

<b>(ii) Call Out Rate – Monday to Sunday</b>	
Fee per operation per 2 hours (17.00 – 22.00 hours)	€35.68
Operation lasting more than 2 hours and up to three hours (17.00 – 22.00 hours)	€35.68 + €17.83 = €53.51
Operation lasting more than 4 hours and up to five hours	€35.68 + €35.68 + €17.83 = €89.19
Fee per operation per hour (after 22.00 hours)	€35.68

Hawkins House Dublin 2  
Teach Haicín Baile Átha Cliath 2  
Telephone (01) 635 4000 VPNI 12  
Fax (01) 635 4001  
Email: info@health.gov.ie  
Website: <http://www.doh.ie>

**(iii) On Call without Standby**

Fee per operation, call in without standby €71.36  
Overruns from roster at normal overtime rates  
(no time back in lieu)

**(iv) On Call over Weekend**

In situations where no roster duty is available over the weekend, the following will apply on a pro rata basis i.e. appropriate rate divided by 12, then multiplied by the number of hours available. No time back in lieu will apply.

**(v) Nurse Co-ordinator Allowance**

A shift allowance of €15.24 will be paid to a staff nurse who undertakes the role of formalising the reporting and accountability relationships with the Theatre Superintendent. The allowance only applies to a staff nurse who fulfils specified duties when called in.

The following information will be included in their report for the Theatre Superintendent:

Number of patients to undergo operations in Theatre on any given night

Time of the last operation

Time nursing staff left

Type of procedures undertaken

What procedures were conducted

Time the patient was sent for

Time patient returned to a ward

Nominated staff on duty

The allowance will apply concurrent with the commencement of the additional duties envisaged for staff nurses who undertake the nurse co-ordinator role.

3. The revised rates are effective from 6 January 2003 and are in full and final settlement of all claims by the unions under the heading 'Theatre On-Call' as referred to in Labour Court Recommendation 16261.

4. Your non-capital allocation will be adjusted to take account of appropriate additional costs. In order to make the required adjustment to your allocation a detailed breakdown of the costs incurred in relation to theatre on call nurses is required for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002. These figures should include details of: -

on call with standby costs

call out rate costs

on call without stand by costs

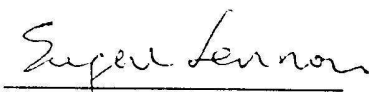
on call over weekend

and should be in the format set out in Appendix 1.

An estimate of savings in 2003 resulting from the ending of time back in lieu for on call without standby should also be submitted. A detailed estimate of the cost of the nurse co-ordinator allowance in 2003 is also required.

5. Any queries concerning this arrangement should be referred to the Health Service Employers Agency, 63-64 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2 (Tel. 01 6626966)

Yours sincerely

  
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Eugene Lennon  
Nursing Policy Division