



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Straiteis Pobail agus Pleanála
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens, BAC 8, D08 W 2A8

Office of National Director Community Strategy and Planning
HSE, Dr Steevens Hospital, Dublin 8. D08 W 2A8

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Arrangement with General Practitioners in Context of Roll Out of Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

Dear Doctor,

As you will be aware the HSE is progressing the implementation of the above vaccination programme in line with the nationally agreed guidance established by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC), focusing on Nursing Homes and certain Long stay Facilities as well as Healthcare Workers, (including General Practitioners and Teams).

General Practitioners, 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 Vaccination Programme in accordance with the agreed National Vaccination schedule. In particular GPs will have a key role in delivering the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme to persons aged 70 years and over as well as high-risk patients in the medical priority groups.

In addition the HSE also intends inviting GPs to participate in mass HSE run vaccination clinics on the basis of defined sessional commitments. The HSE is also interested in working with GPs in operating cross practice clinics organised at an appropriate scale by GPs coming together in their respective communities and in suitable community based facilities where such arrangements maybe necessary to facilitate greater numbers or safe storage of vaccines.

In this context, following a process of consultation involving the Department of Health, the HSE and the Irish Medical Organisation, the Minister for Health, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, pursuant to Section 42 of the Public Service (Pay and Pensions) Act, 2017 has determined that the following fee rates be paid to GPs involved in the delivery of the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme.

- The rate to be paid for vaccinations administered by GPs in their own surgeries or premises or in alternative premises used to facilitate greater numbers or safe storage of vaccines is **€25 per dose i.e. €50 per patient where two doses are given.**
- 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 programme, a **once-off administration fee of €10 per vaccinated patient** will apply, given the expected requirements in relation to identification of relevant cohorts from practice records, etc. as we move through the tiers of the allocation strategy.
- This is a single administration fee for the processing of each patient and which can be paid only once in respect of an individual patient, regardless of number of doses of vaccine he/she receives. For the avoidance of doubt, only one administration fee can be paid per patient nationally.
- This is a composite fee and no other fees such as out of hours or temporary resident fee will be applicable.
- For GP participation on a sessional basis in mass immunisation clinics a rate of **€120 per hour**, will apply.
- These provisions will be in place for a six-month period from their introduction and will be reviewed before the expiry of that period.

- It is understood that the first cohort to be vaccinated by GPs will be those aged over 70 who are resident in the community, in accordance with the priorities set out in the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. This allocation strategy approved by Government states that this cohort is to be vaccinated in the following order: Persons aged 85 and older; persons aged 80-84; persons aged 75-79 and persons aged 70-74 and operational planning will proceed on this basis.
- It is the Ministers intention that the state will provide an indemnity for GP's participating in this programme. The detailed arrangements are at an advanced stage and this indemnity will be in place prior to any rollout of the vaccination programme in General Practice.

I will make further contact with you over the coming short period with regard to the arrangements for submission of claims for reimbursement and the more detailed operational arrangements to apply including the ordering and distribution of vaccines.

I would like to once again express the HSE's gratitude to General Practitioners 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 GPs and their Teams will not be found wanting when it comes to playing their part in the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



**Pat Healy,
National Director,
Community Strategy and Planning**