



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

**Date: 21 January, 2021**

**Circular Number: NCO-03-2021**

### **Arrangement with Pharmacists in Context of Roll Out of Covid-19 Vaccination Programme**

Dear Pharmacist,

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 Community Pharmacists).

Community Pharmacists, 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. Given the clinical and operational requirements and having regard to the volume and nature of the available vaccine, the HSE envisages Community Pharmacists having a key role to play in delivering the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme to the general population aged up to 69 years of age in accordance with the Programme roll out schedule. This will also facilitate the vaccination of Community Pharmacists in advance of their involvement as vaccinators in the roll out of the programme.

In addition, the HSE also intends inviting interested Community Pharmacists to participate in mass HSE run vaccination clinics on the basis of defined sessional commitments.

In this context, following a process of consultation involving the Department of Health, the HSE and the Irish Pharmaceutical Union, 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 Pharmacists involved in the delivery of the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme.

- The rate to be paid for vaccinations administered by Community Pharmacists in their own Community Pharmacies 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 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.
- For Community Pharmacist participation on a sessional basis in mass immunisation clinics a rate of **€70 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 the Ministers intention that the state will provide an indemnity for Pharmacists 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 by Pharmacists.

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 Community Pharmacists 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 Community Pharmacists 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,**



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