



17<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Circular 016/24

## **RE: Pharmacy Reimbursement Claim Enhancements**

Dear Pharmacist,

Please find below updates in relation to pharmacy claiming for mental health services prescriptions under GMS, the Hospital Emergency Scheme and EU/Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) electronic claiming. Updated PCRS contact information is also included for your information.

### **Mental Health Services Prescriptions**

A mental health services prescription (traditional paper prescription or electronically transferred via Healthmail to the pharmacy) will continue to be accepted for reimbursement for patients who hold GMS eligibility.

Prescriptions transferred via Healthmail from hospitals / healthcare agencies that are recognised as securely connected to Healthmail are accepted for GMS eligible patients.

In order to claim for these prescriptions appropriately under the GMS scheme, the prescriber number **55555** has been assigned. This code is for mental health services prescription claiming only and is not valid for any other prescriber type.

### **Hospital Emergency Scheme**

Pharmacists are reminded that mental health services prescriptions do not fall under the Hospital Emergency Scheme. A valid hospital (public or private) prescription for a patient with GMS eligibility is accepted under the Hospital Emergency Scheme for the purposes of reimbursement. However, the list of hospices accepted for the purposes of reimbursement under GMS remain as listed in Circular 35/17.

The facility to allow for 30 days dispensing under the Hospital Emergency Scheme will continue to be retained and will remain under review.

### **Electronic submission of EU and Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) Claims**

EU and DTSS electronic claiming was introduced at the end of 2022 (Ref: Circular 30/22) and has been implemented by community pharmacy contractors. Therefore, where EU and DTSS electronic submission is in place, the supporting paperwork is not required to be submitted at the end of the month.

Under the Community Pharmacy Contractor Agreement, pharmacists are obliged to verify the reasonableness and accuracy of claims presented for reimbursement.



PCRS may request documentation from pharmacy contractors for audit/review purposes and in those instances will communicate separately. Through IT enhancements, PCRS continues to engage with pharmacy software vendors to progress the move to full electronic submission of claims. The final area planned to move to electronic submission is the Opioid Substitution Treatment Prescription claims which PCRS hope to progress in the coming months.

### Contact Information

Email	Query Type
<a href="mailto:PCRS.PPUInvoices@hse.ie">PCRS.PPUInvoices@hse.ie</a>	Submission of Invoices
<a href="mailto:PCRS.PPUQueries@hse.ie">PCRS.PPUQueries@hse.ie</a>	Pharmacy Claim/Payment Queries
<a href="mailto:PCRS.HiTech@hse.ie">PCRS.HiTech@hse.ie</a>	High Tech Co-Ordination Unit
<a href="mailto:PCRS.IndividualRequest@hse.ie">PCRS.IndividualRequest@hse.ie</a>	Individual Reimbursement Requests under Community Drug Schemes
<a href="mailto:Pharmacy.Response@hse.ie">Pharmacy.Response@hse.ie</a>	ToP Stock Orders, Phased Dispensing queries, managed access product queries (e.g. Entresto, Versatis, PrEP).
<a href="mailto:PCRS.ONS@hse.ie">PCRS.ONS@hse.ie</a>	ONS approvals and queries
<a href="mailto:PCRS.LTIQueries@hse.ie">PCRS.LTIQueries@hse.ie</a>	Long Term Illness Scheme
<a href="mailto:PCRS.ExemptMed@hse.ie">PCRS.ExemptMed@hse.ie</a>	Exempt Medicinal Products
<a href="mailto:PCRS.ProbityPharm@hse.ie">PCRS.ProbityPharm@hse.ie</a>	Probity Concerns

Community pharmacy contractors can also contact PCRS via telephone at 01-8647100.

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan

Primary Care Reimbursement Service