



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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Circular 058/16

21st November 2016

Dear Pharmacist,

I refer to Circular 046/16. A number of queries have been raised with PCRS in relation to the requirements set out in Circular 046/16 and the HSE is satisfied to clarify as follows:

Emergency Supply

Where it is necessary to invoke the emergency provisions of the Prescription legislation, the pharmacist can annotate on the claim that it relates to an emergency supply. The number of occurrences of emergency supply should be low if the requirements of the relevant legislation is respected.

Relationship of Person Collecting

The pharmacist should be satisfied that the person collecting medication on behalf of a patient is acting on behalf of the patient. The relationship of the person collecting the medication could reflect that they are a relative; carer; neighbour; friend; partner etc.

There is no minimum age specified in the Regulation of Retail Pharmacy Businesses Regulations 2008 or PSI guidelines at which a person can collect a prescription-only medicine either for themselves or on behalf of someone else, where they have been given authority to do so.

However, the pharmacist has a professional and legal responsibility to ensure that medicines are supplied safely from a pharmacy to the relevant patient along with sufficient information on how to take the medicine safely and as prescribed, and that they know how to store the medicine. The pharmacist must be satisfied that the person collecting the medicine has been authorised to do so by the patient and is of a sufficient age and maturity to safely deliver the medicine to the patient with any relevant information.

Nursing Home GMS Residents

On admission to a nursing home, patients are normally asked to give consent for the supply of their medication from a named pharmacy. The HSE / PCRS will accept the signature of the person in charge of a nursing home or their nominated staff member to sign and acknowledge receipt of the medication listed, on the dispensing date as stamped by the pharmacist on the form

Literacy Challenges

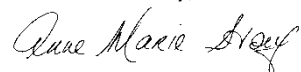
Literacy challenges arise in a number of circumstances for patients in their interaction with the health services. The following provisions apply for patients who are applicants for state schemes and these are acceptable for third party verification:

- The signature can be considered verified where the patient signs their name;
- The patient may nominate an advocate to act on their behalf and in this situation the advocate signs;
- A patient wishing to represent themselves may place their 'mark' on the space for signature. This may be witnessed by a person who signs and dates the form.

It should be possible for pharmacists to secure a signature in the majority of instances. The HSE/PCRS will reimburse pharmacists who dispense prescribed medicines in good faith to eligible patients, and who have made reasonable efforts to obtain signatures from the patients and/or their representatives.

I trust this clarifies any issues arising and appreciate and acknowledge your cooperation in this accountability measure in the expenditure of considerable public monies on behalf of patients in the community.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Marie Hoey', written in a cursive style.

Anne Marie Hoey
Primary Care Reimbursement Service



NOTICE

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (GMS) SCHEME

From the 1st December 2016, persons with eligibility under the GMS (or their nominee for e.g. relative, carer, neighbour, friend or partner) must acknowledge receipt of medicines, on the day the medicines are dispensed, by signing the GMS Prescription Form. This signature must be provided on the day the eligible person/nominee collects their medication from their pharmacy.

The GMS prescription form will be dated and stamped by the pharmacist to indicate the date the medicines are dispensed to you.