

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Office of General Manager Primary Care
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Private & Confidential

23rd March, 2022

Dear GP,

I refer to the Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis-Access in the context of access to GP Services Provision of access to GP services forms a key part of the HSE's overall response. This needs to be operationalised in very close co-ordination with the process of issuing medical cards and registering Ukrainian people on GPs' GMS panels or engagement of GPs under bespoke arrangements in congregated type centres of accommodation. A process has commenced with the IMO on agreeing a framework for ensuring access to GP services.

It is anticipated that a certain proportion of people from Ukraine, particularly those arriving in earlier waves, will stay in private homes with relatives/friends or in homes/apartments etc. made available by Irish people. It is expected that, for the most part, these individuals/families will be registered with local GPs in the normal way under the GMS. The HSE has established a process for Ukrainian people arriving in Ireland to get access to a medical card as quickly as possible. In this vein, it is likely that the process of Assigning a Patient to a GP will be utilised given the volumes of people arriving in such a short amount of time.

In the interim, where a GP provides care to a Ukrainian person, prior to them receiving a medical card, they should fill out an STC form and hold it until further notification is received from the HSE. **Do not send it to PCRS manually or process it through the GP Suite.** The HSE will inform ASAP as to what route that STC needs to follow in order to ensure that the GP is remunerated promptly and appropriately for this consultation.

It is recognised that circumstances will arise where individuals will need access to prescription medicines from pharmacies and to that end PCERS has generated a series of temporary Generic Medical Card numbers which will enable reimbursement of pharmacies for medicines dispensed to people from Ukraine who have entered his country whilst they are applying for a Medical Card. The number in respect of Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CHO4) is: **2K71218A**

It is important to note, that these cards are not enabled to accept GP claims. The code/process for GP claims will follow, as quickly as possible, as outlined above. Pre-existing generic medical card numbers provided historically to other services should not be utilised for this particular programme as the HSE needs to be able to collate and record all activity in relation to this programme.

A recent framework, discussed by the HSE & The IMO advises that, in addition to normal GMS capitation rates and other GMS contract fees, such as special items of service it is proposed that GPs will receive a once off registration payment, which is currently €173.69, where they accept a Ukrainian person from this group on to their GMS panels. Further discussion will take place with the IMO with regard to the exact arrangement to apply in this regard.

It is proposed that pending the issuing of a personal medical card to a Ukrainian person, GPs will be allowed claim an emergency STC fee for each in person consultation provided (rate is currently €40.94). This interim arrangement will cease from the 1st of the month following the issuing of a medical card to the individual as the GPs remuneration would then transition to the normal capitation based fee arrangement under the GMS contract.

Further instruction on how to claim this emergency STC fee will follow once it has been finalised.

Congregated Settings:

It is anticipated that a significant number of Ukrainian people will be accommodated in congregated settings throughout the country. The normal GMS patient registration process will not be practicable for this potentially large cohort. In this regard three potential options have been identified by the HSE and the IMO based on similar type arrangements that are already in existence.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is presently aware of an increasing number of such settings. We are in the process of preparing an Expression of Interest document to send out to practices in these areas to establish an agreed level of GP service for these settings. We will be in touch individually with GP Practices as these settings develop to seek to discuss and arrange GP services to serve the needs of those utilising them.

In respect of Out Of Hours the following is advised in the Framework:

An arrangement has been put in place centrally with the 14 GP Out of Hours Co-operatives who are currently reimbursed through a grant arrangement covering access to GP out of hours services.

However, Local HSE management will need to put a similar set of bespoke arrangements in place for the other out of hours arrangements that are not currently covered by the Grant arrangement.

A process has been developed nationally to ensure GP's can access translation services where needed. This correspondence will be accompanied by a separate document outlining this process.

We are advised that the framework is currently under renegotiation and will be kept under continuous review in the weeks ahead within the HSE and in consultation with the IMO to ensure that it remains fit for purpose for Ukrainian people, GPs and the HSE. Once further relevant information becomes available we will share it with you as promptly as possible.

I attach some supplementary information to this letter which may be useful including health needs assessment of Ukraine population and access pathway to interpretation services. Should you have any queries relating to this correspondence please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Moriarty
General Manager Primary Care
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare