



Date: 14th November 2025

Circular Number: NCO-27-2025

UEC Arrangements for Winter 2025/2026- General Practice Exceptional Measures

Dear Doctor,

As you will be aware our health services across General Practice, Community and Acute Hospitals during this winter, as in previous years, will continue to require a strong coordinated and integrated approach to successfully respond to current and anticipated levels of increased activity and service demands.

I wish to advise that in the above context, the HSE with the support of the Department of Health and following agreement with the Irish Medical Organisation, have agreed to introduce a number of General Practice service oriented support measures for both daytime general practice and out-of-hours services through GP Co-ops.

The Support measures are outlined hereunder;

1. Daytime General Practice

The following daytime GP service arrangements will be in place with effect from 8th December 2025 to 15th February 2026 inclusive.

Each participating practice, in addition to their daytime normal surgery hours, will carry out additional in person clinics for Respiratory/Acute consultations from 7am to 9am (inclusive) and from 5pm – 7pm (inclusive) Monday to Friday and/or from 9am -1pm (inclusive) on Saturday and Sundays. GPs whose normal surgery hours finish at 6pm may run additional clinics between 7am to 9am and from 6pm and 8pm Monday to Friday and/or from 9am-1pm (inclusive) on Saturdays and Sundays.

As part of this initiative, GP practices will provide a minimum of Ten x 2 Hour In Person Respiratory/Acute Clinics (ideally one per week over the period) providing an additional twenty hours availability. A minimum of six GMS/DVC consultations should take place during each of the 10 scheduled clinics. Practices should arrange the clinic days in line with the demand within their own patient population.

On Monday of each week, the GP practice will email gp.agreement@hse.ie to confirm their clinic arrangements for that week. Participating GP practices should also put a notice on their website each week of the additional clinic(s) and/or may put a notice up in the surgery of the additional clinic(s) and/or inform patients through their other regular communication channels for example: social media/SMS/Phone Messaging.

For those practices who sign up to this initiative and complete the ten x two hour clinics the payment supports are as follows:

STC Rate of €41.63 for each GMS patient seen during the clinics

Grant of €2,500 per each GMS GP in practice

For Single Handed Practitioners the Grant will be €3,000

Additional STCs outside of scheduled clinics:

In addition, all GPs in participating practices may, during the period 8th December to 15th February claim STC rate of €41.63 per in person Respiratory/Acute consultations, on all other days when they are not running their planned clinics to manage patient overflow during this busy period. This STC rate will be payable during the hours 7am to 9am and 5pm to 7pm Monday to Friday or 9am to 1pm Saturday and Sunday. Again, for those whose normal surgery hours finish at 6pm the STC rate will be payable between 6pm and 8pm.

It is recognised that all GP sessions are a mix of GMS and private patients and that practice should continue for the extended/additional sessions with private patients paying as normal and in line with practice policy.

Claiming:

All claims for reimbursement are to be submitted in the normal way for STCs through PCRS online portal or manual in line with existing practice protocols and should be submitted no later than three to five working days after consultation where possible. In line with existing practices all forms must be signed by the individual patient noting the date and time of consultation. Digital/electronic signature is permissible where practices have such technology.

How to Confirm Participation:

The above arrangements require each practice to complete the attached Grant Acceptance Form and return to gp.agreement@hse.ie no later than 20th November 2025. Only one form per practice should be submitted.

2. OOH Services

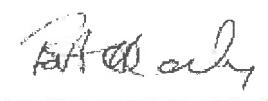
The HSE will provide funding to the current grant funded Co-ops to enable them roster additional doctors and other ancillary support services such as nursing etc. to increase triage capacity and GP availability in out of Hours Treatment Centres between the hours of 6pm and 10pm. This funding will be used in a flexible manner by the team locally to secure the most effective response to meet local needs. This exceptional measure will commence on **27th December, 2025 and will operate to 26th January, 2026 (inclusive).**

This additional funding will enable more patients to receive in person consultations by Co-ops with the objective of reducing the number of referrals to ED as well as the number of patients presenting directly to EDs without having been first seen by the relevant GP Out of Hours service.

If you have any queries on the above please contact the National Contracts Office by email gp.agreement@hse.ie; or by phone 044 9395519.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your practice team for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Healy', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Pat Healy

**National Director
National Services & Schemes**



Ref:

Additional Day Time GP Clinics- Winter 2025 Participation Acceptance Form

In line with the agreement to provide additional capacity over the winter period please complete the details below noting that by completing this and signing you are confirming that your GP practice will participate in this years GP Winter initiative in line with the below requirements to;

- Provide a minimum of ten x 2 hour clinics ideally at least one such clinic per week during the period 8th December 2025 -15th February 2026. The clinics will be for respiratory / acute consultations.
- Provide the clinics in addition to your normal daytime surgery hours. These clinics can be done at any of the following times:
 - Weekdays from 7am to 9am and from 5pm to 7pm and/or Saturday and Sunday mornings (from 9am to 1pm)
 - GPs whose normal surgery hours finish at 6pm may run additional clinics between 7am to 9am and from 6pm and 8pm Monday to Friday and/or from 9am-1pm (inclusive) on Saturdays and Sundays.
 - From Monday 8th December 2025 to Sunday 15th February 2026 inclusive.
- Participating GP practices should also put a notice on their website each week of the additional clinic(s) and/or may put a notice up in the surgery of the additional clinic(s) and/or inform patients through their other regular communication channels for example: social media/SMS/Phone Messaging.
- Participate in line with Circular NCO – 24-2025

To receive the GP Winter Grant, please complete all sections below and submit by email to gp.agreement@hse.ie on or before the 20th November 2025

GMS GP Recipient Name

GMS No:

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Practice Name and Address

Please tick the box relevant to your GP practice:

1. I am a single handed GMS GP

☐

OR

2. I work in a GMS GP Group Practice and will receive this grant on behalf of my GP Practice

☐

If you are working in GP Group Practice, please list the names of all GMS GPs in the practice

Doctor Name	GMS Number

GP (Print Name)

GP (Signature)

Date : _____

Medical Practitioners
Office Stamp