



IRISH MEDICAL  
ORGANISATION  
Ceardchumann Dochtúirí na hÉireann

## GP Obligations to Medical/GP Visit Card Patients in Nursing Homes

The IMO have received a number of queries from members in relation to their obligations to Public patients residing in Nursing Homes.

Your principal contractual obligations to patients with medical/GP visits cards are provided for under your 1989 GMS contract which requires you to provide ***“all proper and necessary treatment of a kind usually undertaken by a General Practitioner..”***

This principally covers the diagnosis and treatment of episodic illnesses.

The GMS does not distinguish between your obligations to patients residing within the community or within a residential facility. While there is a higher capitation rate applicable for patients over 70 residing in a private nursing home, this higher rate is to reflect the higher level of expected episodes of illness work and to cover the fact that care will generally be provided in the Nursing Home rather than in the surgery setting.

### The GMS and HIQA

HIQA is the licensing authority for care provided in residential settings, such as Nursing Homes, in Ireland. They have developed and imposed standards on providers of such care and they regularly inspect providers to ensure they are meeting these standards.

It is important to note that these standards are specifically applicable to the residential settings (e.g. the Nursing home). While the Nursing home is obliged to put certain things in place and to meet certain standards this does not place a contractual obligation on the GP under the GMS to undertake extra work to meet those standards.

We are aware of GP members being asked to undertake the following categories of extra work by Nursing Homes and other facilities in order to meet HIQA imposed standards which are not covered by existing contracts with GPs:

- Admissions paperwork
- Quarterly assessments
- Kardex writing and sign-off
- Routine Medication review
- Chronic Care management including phlebotomy
- Incident and accident report management
- Routine and Scheduled Care
- Care Planning meetings
- Regular meetings with patient families

The above services are not covered by the Medical/GP visit card. It is a matter for each individual GP to determine whether to provide such services, and if so what basis they provide these services on. The onus remains on the Nursing Home to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that they are in compliance with the applicable HIQA standards.

If you have any queries in relation to any of the above please contact the IMO at (01) 6767273 or by email to [memberadvisoryunit@imo.ie](mailto:memberadvisoryunit@imo.ie).