

Dear Doctor,

From our records we note that you are a Dispensing Doctor. The IMO have been working with the PCRS to resolve the ongoing issues surrounding Dispensing Doctors. Please see below two articles from our recent Newsletters about this issue. If you need any further information, please contact the IMO on the numbers below.

6th December 2013

NB Dispensing Doctors Update

As advised in the last GP newsletter, the IMO has serious concerns regarding the HSE's planned implementation of changes to dispensing doctors from January 2014. This issue was discussed at the meeting with PCRS; please find below agreement reached with the PCRS:

To facilitate an effective transition, including time for doctor preparation, the revised arrangements will not be introduced for doctors continuing in the scheme until 1 April 2014. This will also include the pilot GPs. However, the pilot arrangements will continue and the duration of the pilot will be extended to 31 January 2014

The IMO and PCRS will continue to engage in discussions on the proposed revised arrangements to agree full implementation of the 1999 Agreement. Consideration will also be given to a revision of the dispensing target of 70% in recognition of particular circumstances e.g. the requirement for doctors to dispense acute medication.

Where doctors have received a letter ending their dispensing status and inviting them to contact a named individual in PCRS if they have any specific queries - PCRS will review any written correspondence/appeals from these General Practitioners. **Where correspondence/appeals are received by PCRS dispensing status will not end on 31 December 2013. However, where PCRS are satisfied that the General Practitioner is not dispensing and where no written correspondence/appeal is received by PCRS, dispensing status will end on 31 December 2013 as planned.**

NB In line with the foregoing, any dispensing doctor that has received a letter from PCRS advising that that their dispensing status will cease and who wishes to continue dispensing should immediately write to the PCRS advising them that they wish to continue dispensing, this letter should be copied to the IMO.

20th December 2013

Dispensing Doctors – Important Reminder

The IMO wishes to remind dispensing doctors that, as advised in the last newsletter and in line with the agreement reached with PCRS as set out below, any dispensing doctor that has received a letter from PCRS advising that their dispensing status will cease and who wishes to continue dispensing should immediately write to the PCRS advising them that they wish to continue dispensing, this letter should be copied to the IMO - where no written correspondence/appeal is received by PCRS, dispensing status will end on 31 December 2013 as planned.

The IMO has been advised by PCRS that in January 2014 they will be writing to those Doctors that have appealed the decision requesting that they provide information supporting their case to retain dispensing status. It is essential that GPs wishing to maintain dispensing

respond to this letter as PCRS has advised that in the absence of the requested information their decision to cease dispensing status will stand.

Agreement with PCRS re Dispensing Doctors:

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