



Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation

Working Together

April 2017

Phil Ni Sheaghda, Director of Industrial Relations

PHN/CRGN UPDATE

Dear Colleagues,

A meeting with the Primary Care management within the HSE took place on 12th of April 2017 at HSE Offices, Millennium Park, Naas, Co Kildare.

Attending the meeting were Sile McManus, HR Primary Care, Paul Byrne, HR HSE, Bill Ebbitt Primary Care, on behalf of HSE Management, and Phil Ní Sheaghda, Lorraine Monaghan and Dean Flanagan on behalf of INMO. Matters discussed are outlined below.

1. Clinical Governance of Home Help:

The HSE Social Care and Primary Care division have agreed, as a matter of priority, that the previously agreed independently chaired process will be established to determine matters relating to:

- workload for PHNs and Community Registered General Nurses who are assigned and contracted to the Primary Care Division of the HSE; and
- work assignments from Health and Wellbeing and Social Care division to PHNs/CRGNs in relation to, home help governance, immunisation, ETC

Action 1 Paul Byrne on behalf of HSE management will make contact with

suggested independent chair to determine availability. Terms of reference have already been exchanged but not agreed. They will be discussed at the first meeting. This process is now due to commence in May 2017.

2. Clinical governance of children discharged with high medical needs

The INMO have, for some time, raised concerns in respect of clinical governance relating to children discharged from acute hospitals into the community with high medical needs. The HSE has set out an internal HSE work process in respect of this area. Specific information was given in respect of the development of an assessment tool, coordinating and case management, of the service and the development of a policy with overarching emphasis and the provision of these services. A briefing note setting out these matters has been issued to the INMO. **Please [Click here to view the briefing note.](#)**

It is agreed that in May 2017, engagement in respect of the nursing responsibility will now need to take place with INMO members prior to any decision regarding service delivery options/processes.

Action 2 Bill Ebbitt to liaise and arrange same with INMO

3. The role of TUSLA and HSE following referrals involving on Garda Síochana

Specific issues of concern have been raised by the INMO with the HSE over the past twelve months, regarding the practice of gardaí appearing unannounced at health centres, seeking to interview PHN's who had made referrals to TUSLA.

It is agreed that a clear reporting structure will be identified to TUSLA and to Primary Care managers. It is understood that the appropriate initial contact is with the Director of Public Health Nursing, and following this, interviews can take place by appointment with the relevant referring HSE employee thereafter.

In an email dated 13th April 2017, HSE management have confirmed that a senior member of An Garda Síochana has been identified with whom HSE representatives will liaise with, and revert back to the INMO in May.

Action 3 Bill Ebbitt to update INMO on progress and revert to INMO with proposals

4. Meithael project - TUSLA

The INMO have, on numerous occasions, raised by the INMO concerns in respect of the workloads involved in the Meithael project, particularly for PHN and RGN grades. Both PHN and Community RGNs have informed the HSE that INMO members had not been fully consulted prior to the role out of Meithael and that this type of consultation and co-ordination of services is mandatory.

The HSE accept that further dialogue is required with TUSLA and that any project such as this cannot result in additional workloads for PHN/RGN grades.

The HSE confirmed that they have written to the Child and Family Agency, seeking formal discussion relevant to the matters brought forward by the INMO. HSE management have also sought data pertaining to the number of case reviews where the PHN/CRGN is the convener compared with other professionals. The HSE is to revert to the INMO shortly.

Action 4 the HSE is to revert to the INMO Bill Ebbitt with progress report and further consideration.

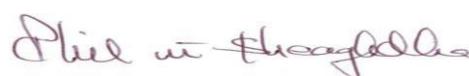
5. PHN/CRGN metrics

Following ongoing discussion with the primary care division in respect of the terms of implementation of the metrics programme, the INMO are pleased to announce that agreement has been reached. INMO Section Officers and representatives on the subgroup considered the revised proposals and confirmed acceptance. This has been notified to the HSE and **the final signed off document is available [here to view](#)**.

The INMO will inform members of all progress made on the above issues in due course.

Thank you for your attention to this notice,

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**Phil Ni Sheaghda,
Director of Industrial Relations**