

# Palliative Care Medicine

## Ground Rules

# 1. In-Patient Palliative Consultation

A major in patient palliative medicine consultation arising from the referral of a patient by the admitting Consultant to a Consultant palliative medicine physician registered with Irish Life Health for the purpose of managing a complex case.

This consultation is payable once only, for the initial consultation with a new patient.

Code	Description
10072	Consultant Palliative medicine in-patient consultation

This consultation includes:

- > A full history and medical examination of all systems
- > Evaluation of appropriate diagnostic tests
- > Formal symptom assessment
- > Administration and interpretation of a validated Quality of Life assessment
- > Providing an opinion and/ or diagnosis and making an appropriate record of this

The duration of this consultation must be for a minimum of 50 minutes and the reason stated with claim submitted.

Any subsequent consultations in future in-patient claims are payable at the inpatient consultation rate.

Code	Description
8690	Palliative care consultation - subsequent in-patient admission

**Notes to the above points:**

- > *The benefit for in-patient consultation does not include any form of therapy or continued involvement with the patient.*
- > *Code 10072 is payable once only, code 8690 is payable once in every four days during a patient's admission.*
- > *Consultation benefit is not payable to a Consultant with the same speciality as the admitting Consultant.*
- > *A consultation benefit is not payable to a Consultant if a diagnostic procedure is payable to another Consultant where both Consultants are of the same speciality.*
- > *Where a procedure listed in the Schedule of Benefits for Professional Fees is performed at the time of a consultation, then only the procedure benefit is payable.*
- > *This benefit is not payable where, as a matter of policy, all patients are routinely examined by a second doctor.*
- > *This benefit is not payable for the routine screening of patients pre-operatively.*

## 2. Palliative Care Stage Planning

This benefit is only payable where a palliative care Consultant gives on-going attention in person to a patient in the circumstances set out below and is not payable for claims that involve a surgical procedure.

Code	Description
8551	Complex discharge planning, by a Consultant in palliative medicine, including meeting with the patient's family and (if necessary) healthcare professionals and planning the patient's future needs
8552	Care provided by a Consultant in palliative medicine that requires the intensity of service appropriate in the case of a dying patient in the final days of life
8553	Complex discharge planning, by a Consultant in palliative medicine, where the patient is transferred from hospital to a hospice into the care of another a consultant in palliative medicine

The claiming of benefit will continue on the basis of a fully completed Irish Life Health claim form from the primary treating Consultant.

