



Irish Life
health

Palliative Care Medicine Ground Rules

2020

1. 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 only payable for the initial consultation with a new patient.

CODE	DESCRIPTION
10072	Consultant Palliative medicine in-patient consultation

The consultation includes:

- > A full history and medical examination
- > Evaluation of appropriate diagnostic tests
- > Formal symptom assessment
- > Administration and interpretation of a validated Quality of Life assessment.
- > Providing an opinion/ diagnosis and making an appropriate record thereof
- > The duration for this consultation must be for a minimum of 50 minutes

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

CODE	DESCRIPTION
8690	Palliative care consultation - subsequent in-patient admission

Notes to the above 2 points:

- > *The benefit for in-patient consultation does not include any form of therapy or continued involvement with the patient.*
- > *It is paid once only, irrespective of the number of examinations or visits involved in forming an opinion.*
- > *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, both consultants having 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 constant attention 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 patients 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.