

General Information	
Ministerial Decision Type	Miscellaneous
Report Title	Contracted Medical Benefit
Minister	Social Security
Signatory	Minister
Lead Department	Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (SP3)
Lead Directorate	Public Policy (SP3)
Ministerial Decision Summary: Public or <a href="#">Absolutely/Qualified</a> Exempt	Public Select if more than one Absolutely/Qualified Exemption.
Date decision made if different to date 'Ministerial Decision Summary' signed.	Select date.
Report and Supplemental Report Details	
Report Author	Senior Policy Officer
Date of Report	30/05/2023
Supplementary Report Title <i>(If applicable)</i>	Insert Supplementary Report Title.
Supplementary Report Author <i>(If applicable)</i>	Insert Official Title Only.
Date of Supplementary Report <i>(If applicable)</i>	Select Date of Supplemental Report.
Ministerial Decision Report: Public or <a href="#">Absolutely/Qualified</a> Exempt	Public Select if more than one Absolutely/Qualified Exemption.
Relevant Case/Application/URN <i>(Only complete if making a decision related to an appeal where appropriate or allowed under legislation/case/application)</i>	Insert Relevant Case/Application.
Relevant Proposition Number <i>(Only complete if presenting Comments or if lodging an Amendment)</i>	Insert P. number.
Relevant Scrutiny Report <i>(Only complete if presenting a ministerial response)</i>	Insert S.R. number.
Associated Law(s) and/or Subordinate Legislation	Health Insurance (Jersey) Law 1967
Action required if recommendation agreed	Department to take necessary action.

Resource Implications	There are additional financial and/or manpower implications. Further detail is included in the detail section of the report.
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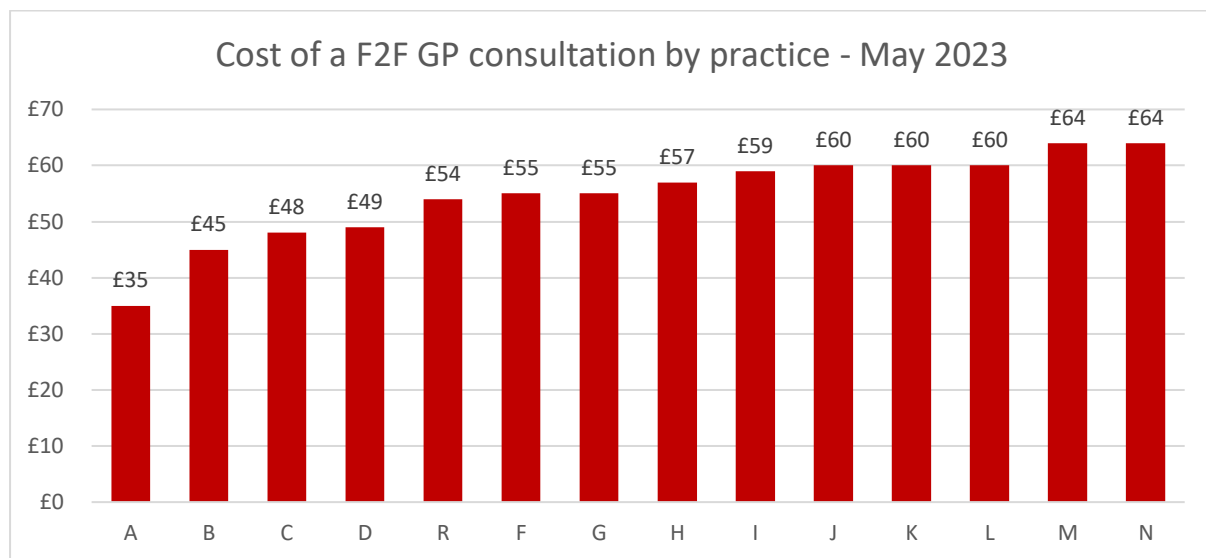
### Introduction

In response to cost-of-living pressures, the Minister for Social Security has negotiated an agreement with General Practice which will enable practices to take £20 off the price they usually charge patients for a face to face General Practitioner surgery consultation.

### Background

Statutory Medical Benefit is paid from the Health Insurance Fund each time an Islander Insured under the Health Insurance Law consults a General Practitioner face to face. This benefit is paid to subsidise patient costs.

An analysis of published fee data in May 2023 shows a range of fees, from a high of £64 falling to £35 in one practice.



### Contracted Medical Benefit

Medical Benefit established in the Health Insurance Law is silent on how it should be weighed against patient fees. This means that while a Social Security Minister may seek to increase the rate of Medical Benefit there is no guarantee that all, or any of the increase will be passed across to patients.

The Minister for Social Security, having considered options, therefore decided that patients should be assisted with rising health care costs via a 'contracted medical benefit' agreement.

Under this agreement a fee would be paid to the practice for each qualifying General Practitioner consultation. The fee would comprise two elements; a patient element of £20 which would be passed on to the patient 'penny for penny' and a practice element of £5 which the practice may retain to help with rising business costs.

Home visits, telephone and JDOC consultations are excluded from the agreement, as are consultations offered by allied healthcare professionals.

Partial exclusions are also required for cases where the patient does not pay a fee or already pays an agreed fee, so that the patient element of £20 is not applicable. These include

- Health Access Scheme
- childhood immunizations
- 6 month baby check

The agreement does not include price control mechanisms and general practices remain responsible for their own fees and may increase these according to their usual rationale at any time during the term of the agreement.

As part of the agreement the Practice will work with Government to improve price transparency

### **Recommendation**

Other

Customer and local services will administer a contracted scheme, under which patients will receive additional subsidy for face-to-face General Practitioner surgery consultations.

### **Financial and resource implications**

The contracted medical benefit agreement will be administered with existing resource within Customer and Local Services. Payment made to general practices to cover the patient element of £20 and the practice element of £5 will total £6 million annually across the initial term of two years.