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Re: Your email correspondence of 03 March 2021 on behalf of GenderGP

Dear Ms Tiplady-Startin

Thank you for your email of 02 March 2021 which was acknowledged on receipt.

We understand that your email was sent on behalf of Gender GP. We are happy to provide clarity to the members of your organisation as to the advice provided by Medisec to its member GPs in relation to medical treatment and support to transgender individuals who are seeking healthcare.

As you know, GPs provide advice and health care support to all of their patients where services are within their competence. GPs are required to act in accordance with the Irish Medical Council's Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics and to take account of any advice provided by the HSE. The latest HSE guidance note on working with transgender people for GPs is called "*Information for General Practitioners working with Transgender People*". This guidance note recommends that in providing medical services to transgender patients, this is done in conjunction with a range of appropriate specialist supports. In addition, the Irish College of General Practitioners has published a "*Guide for Providing Care for Transgender Patients in Primary Care Quick Reference Guide v.2*" (February 2021). GPs will refer to the above guidance notes when providing medical services to any patients.

Medisec is an insurance intermediary which arranges insurance cover for GPs with certain insurers. In the context of this role, Medisec also advises its GP members about the services for which they are insured. Our advice to our GP members is to provide services to patients which are within their competence and to take account of relevant HSE guidance and any professional guidance available to them. In order for our GP members to be insured, they must be acting within their competence to provide medical services. Each individual GP is advised to determine, having regard to their own competence and experience, how to provide medical supports and healthcare services to their patients and to decide whether specialist consultant oversight is required in the patient's best interests.

We hope this clarifies Medisec's position on your requests.

Yours faithfully

Sent by email, bears no signature

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