

E) Information on fees notified by Interim PHO practices to be charged from 1 July 2004 to those aged 65 and over

PHOs notified DHBs prior to 1 July 2004 of the fees that would be charged by their member practices for those aged 65 years and over. The notifications showed the new fees and how much of a reduction these fees represented compared to the previous fees charged for a person who did not hold a Community Services Card (CSC).

Notified fees to be charged and the amount of reduction in fees for previously unsubsidised people 65 years and over in Interim PHO practices from 1 July 2004 aggregate by DHB.

DHB	Average reduction for non-CSC holders	Average new fee for all 65 and over in Interim PHOs
Auckland	22.18	27.17
Bay of Plenty	24.96	21.42
Canterbury	23.98	23.05
Capital and Coast	25.72	28.15
Counties Manukau	21.42	27.50
Hawke's Bay	22.00	21.80
Hutt Valley	24.87	20.43
MidCentral	25.64	19.36
Nelson Marlborough	24.72	25.69
Otago	24.05	25.90
South Canterbury	23.81	25.50
Southland	24.33	26.44
Taranaki	20.04	23.07
Waikato	22.37	24.28
Wairarapa	23.14	20.43
Waitemata	22.19	25.63
West Coast	24.00	22.75
Whanganui	24.10	21.48
National average	23.40	24.65

Note that the averages in this table are aggregated at the practice level and do not reflect differences in practice size. It has not been possible to derive true averages per person since not all practices are identified in the data. The national average is the average for all Interim funded PHO practices. It is not a DHB average.

Interim PHO practices, on average, reduced fees for those aged 65 and over (without CSC) by \$23.40. (The capitation rate from 1 July 2004 is based on \$26 per estimated visit for that age group.) The average fee charged to those 65 years and over is \$24.65.

There are wide variations in average fees charged for those aged 65 and over by Interim funded PHO practices in different DHB districts. Fees are highest in DHB districts comprising the urban areas of Auckland and Wellington and generally lower in DHB districts with rural hinterlands. However there are exceptions. Fees are low in the urban Hutt Valley district and high in largely rural Southland and South Canterbury.

Points to note

The increased funding for those aged 65 and over is irrespective of CSC status so as to ensure that everyone gets low or reduced cost access even if they fail to qualify for the card. Previously CSC subsidies meant that CSC holders were already paying \$15 less than those without cards. Since the reductions shown in the table are for non-CSC holders, the fee reductions will be \$15 less for those with CSCs.

When the notified fees and the reported reductions that they represent are added together, it appears that at the time of the notification in June 2004 the average unsubsidised fee for Interim PHO practices was \$48.05 (\$23.40 + \$24.65).