



Circular 007/19

8th March 2019

Re: Prescription Charges and Drugs Payment Scheme

Dear Pharmacist,

I wish to advise you that the Minister for Health, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, has made regulations cited as the Health Services (Prescription Charges) (Over 70s) Regulations 2018 (SI 639) to decrease the prescription charge for prescribed drugs, medicines and appliances reimbursed under the GMS Scheme effective from 1st April 2019.

The Minister has also made regulations cited as Health Services (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (SI 59) to decrease the threshold for prescription medicines under the Drug Payment Scheme effective from 1st April 2019.

Prescription Charges

A decrease in the prescription charge for Over 70s and their dependents from €2.00 per item to €1.50 per item for prescribed drugs, medicines and appliances reimbursed under the GMS scheme will come into effect from 1st April 2019. The monthly cap for Over 70s prescription charges has also decreased from €20.00 to €15.00 per person or family.

A prescription charge will also apply for clients accessing products:

- Using Hospital Emergency Prescriptions
- Using Dental Prescriptions under the Dental Treatment Scheme
- Under the EEA Scheme
- Under discretionary hardship arrangements
- Under the Infectious Diseases Regulations (TB Drugs)

The status of a patient's Prescription Charge can be checked using the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) secure checker available on your Pharmacy Application Suite.

Families can confirm or establish a family group on www.medicalcard.ie. If they do not have access to the internet they can get assistance from their Community Healthcare Organisation or call 1890 252 919.

Alternatively, I would be grateful if you could assist eligible families in this regard.

Drugs Payment Scheme

A decrease in the threshold from €134.00 to €124.00 for prescription medicines under the Drug Payment Scheme will also come into effect from 1st April 2019. No individual or family will have to pay more than €124.00 in any calendar month for approved drugs, medicines and appliances for use by that person or his/her family in that month.

Application forms are available from Community Health Organisations or you can now apply online at www.mydps.ie. Alternatively, pharmacists can assist eligible families by completing the emergency registration process.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Marie Hoey
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility