



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Seirbhís Aisioca Príomhchúraim  
Bealach amach 5 an M50  
An Bóthar Thuaidh  
Fionnghlas  
Baile Átha Cliath 11

Health Service Executive  
Primary Care Reimbursement Service  
Exit 5, M50  
North Road  
Finglas  
Dublin 11

Guthán: (01) 864 7100  
Facs: (01) 834 3589

Tel: (01) 864 7100  
Fax: (01) 834 3589

Circular 016/12

1 September 2012

Dear Doctor / Pharmacist,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) faces an unprecedented challenge in the current financial environment to deliver services in a way that will minimise any adverse impact on patients and continue to protect as far as possible, our most vulnerable citizens. To do this we need to reduce costs and continue to harness efficiencies within the Primary Care Schemes.

As you know the Health Service consumes over €5 billion in goods and services each year and the drugs bill, in particular, has increased at an unsustainable rate in the past decade. We must make savings over and above what has already been achieved in recent years. This year we have additionally included for reimbursement a number of innovative therapies, for example, Ipilimumab, Boceprevir and Telaprevir, which are of demonstrable benefit to patients.

You may already be aware that a number of products, such as Glucosamine, have been identified both nationally and internationally as not cost effective or of lesser benefit to patients. A recent study, claiming to be one of the largest and longest trials of the supplement, concludes that Glucosamine neither alleviates pain nor disability and that *“glucosamine probably offers little benefit...beyond whatever placebo effect it may provide.”*

We are conscious of our responsibilities as laid down in Section 7(1) of the Health Act 2004 i.e. *“...to use the resources available ... in the most beneficial, effective and efficient manner to improve, promote and protect the health and welfare of the public.”* Accordingly, the HSE is suspending the reimbursement of the following range of products from the List of Reimbursable Items with immediate effect: Glucosamine; Gluten Free Products; Orlistat; Omega-3-Triglycerides. A Supplemental Update of the GMS Code Numbers affected is attached for your information.

The HSE will not reimburse for any prescription for this range of products under the Primary Care Schemes with immediate effect until further notice.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Burke  
Primary Care Reimbursement Service



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Addendum to the Product Updates  
Notification  
Effective 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012

**HSE - PRIMARY CARE REIMBURSEMENT SERVICE  
ADDENDUM TO SEPTEMBER 2012 UPDATE.**

**Drug Description including coding instruction**

**Drug  
Code**

**DELETIONS**

Arthrimel Tabs. 500 mg. 90 (A)	13109
Dona Caps. 500 mg. 90 (A)	73710
Dona Sachets 1500 mg. 30 (A)	73806
Dona (Imbat Ltd.) Pdr. for Oral Soln. 1500 mg. Sachets 30 (A)	79364
Dona (P.C.O. Mfg.) Sachets 1500 mg. 30 (A)	22017
Glucosamine (Pharma Nord) Caps. 400 mg. 90 (A)	27782
Omacor Caps. 1000 mg. 28 (A)	37583
Omacor (Amimed) Caps. 1000 mg. 28 (A)	37586
Omacor (Imbat Ltd.) Caps. 1000 mg. 28 (A)	37588
Ostoeze Tabs. 625 mg. 60 (A)	38237
Osteole Sachets 1500 mg. 30 (A)	38183
Xenical Caps. 120 mg. 84 (A)	53316
Xenical (BR Lewis Pharmaceuticals) Caps. 120 mg. 84 (A)	53405
Xenical (Clear Pharmacy) Caps. 120 mg. 84 (A)	53303
Xenical (Doncaster Ltd.) Caps. 120 mg. 84 (A)	53476
Xenical (iMED Healthcare Ltd.) Caps. 120 mg. 84 (A)	53383
Xenical (Lexon UK) Caps. 120 mg. 84 (A)	53416
Xenical (P.C.O. Mfg.) Caps. 120 mg. 84 (A)	53395

**ADDENDUM TO THE LIST OF REIMBURSABLE NON DRUG ITEMS IN THE GMS SCHEME  
EFFECTIVE 1ST SEPTEMBER 2012**

**Clinical Nutritional Products**

	<b>Drug Code</b>
<b>DELETIONS</b>	
<b>Baguettes White Gluten Free 400 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>83109</b>
<b>Baking Powder Gluten Free 100 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81130</b>
<b>Bread Fibre Gluten Free 400 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81000</b>
<b>Bread High Fibre Gluten Free 400 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>83355</b>
<b>Bread Mix Brown Gluten Free 500 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81027</b>
<b>Bread Mix Brown Gluten Free 1 Kg. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>83117</b>
<b>Bread Mix White Gluten Free 1 Kg. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>83125</b>
<b>Bread Mix White Gluten Free 2 Kg. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81035</b>
<b>Bread Rolls Gluten Free 240 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>83141</b>
<b>Bread Rolls Gluten Free 280 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81334</b>
<b>Bread Rolls Gluten Free 320 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>83133</b>
<b>Bread Rolls Gluten Free 400 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81399</b>
<b>Bread Rolls Gluten Free 425 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81416</b>
<b>Bread Rolls High Fibre Gluten Free 320 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>83158</b>
<b>Bread White Gluten Free 400 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81019</b>
<b>Cornflakes Gluten Free 250 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81438</b>
<b>Flour White Gluten Free 1 Kg. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>83166</b>
<b>Flour White Gluten Free 2 Kg. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81043</b>
<b>Muesli Gluten Free 500 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81127</b>
<b>Pasta Gluten Free 250 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81450</b>
<b>Pasta Gluten Free 500 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81497</b>
<b>Pizza Bases Gluten Free 400 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>83386</b>
<b>Porridge Gluten Free 500 G. Pack 1 (A)</b>	<b>81528</b>