



Fergus O'Dowd, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

18th December, 2019

PQ: 52356/19

To ask the Minister for Health the details and possible impact of increased pharmacy charges in relation to blister packs used by elderly and unwell persons nationwide; his plans to ensure that unfair increases are overturned; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 52356/19), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There are no reimbursement arrangements under the GMS and Community Drugs Schemes for the filling of blister packs. The Irish Pharmacy Representative Organisation made a proposal to the Department of Health previously in this regard but it was not approved for funding. It is entirely acceptable for a pharmacy to offer, as a quality initiative, to provide a patient's medicines in such systems. However, it is a pharmacy arrangement with the patient and is not a state funded service.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Healy
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service