



Jack Chambers, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

14th November, 2019

PQ: 47038/19

To ask the Minister for Health if changes have been made to the way in which prescription medication is dispensed in pharmacies (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jack Chambers.

A pharmacy is no longer dispensing with the traditional blister packs and instead dispensing medication in ziplock bags.

Dear Deputy Chambers,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 47038/19), 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