



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

3rd December, 2019

PQ: 47899/19

To ask the Minister for Health the process by which the HSE PCRS sanctions or refuses phased dispensing for individual patients; if a registered medical doctor is consulted in either the decision or in the appeal; if an appeal is permitted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Lisa Chambers

Dear Deputy Chambers,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 47899/19), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE considers all requests for phased dispensing for patients. Phased Dispensing can be requested by a GP in circumstances where the doctor believes that it is unsafe for the patient to obtain the totality of their medication on a single supply occasion (e.g. those persons on medications such as antipsychotics, anxiolytics, psychoanaleptics, hypnotics and sedatives). In these circumstances the facility is available to the GP to seek approval or continued access to phased dispensing through the online application suite. It must be clear from the clinical information provided that there is a risk to the patient should they have the totality of a month's supply of medication in their possession.

If the doctor believes that it is safe for their patients to have the totality of their month's medicines, then phased dispensing is not appropriate to their needs.

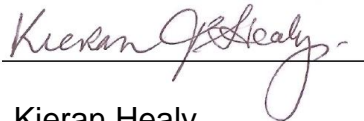
See Circulars attached. Circular 027-19 GP Phased Dispensing; GP Circular 037-18 Phased Dispensing.

It is not our intention to give individual reasons for not approving applications other than to highlight that the HSE has not agreed with the assessment of need. However, it is important that sufficient clinical information regarding the risk to the patient is included in the application to enable a positive recommendation.

The system does not prevent the doctor from making a further application should he/she wish to provide further clinical information. All communication must be online to provide an auditable record of applications and appeals where they arise.

It is important to be aware that blister packing/monitored dosage systems and phased dispensing are two separate processes. The HSE has never agreed to fund a blister packing service.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kieran Healy", written over a horizontal line.

Kieran Healy
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service