



Primary Care Reimbursement Service
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Marc McSharry, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

4th November, 2020

PQ: 31975/20

To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has set targets for increasing the use of generics medicine within the medicines market here; if so, the targets; the extent to which Ireland compares to other EU countries in the use of generic medicines; the estimated extra saving envisaged in 2021 by increased use of generics medicines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Marc MacSharry

Dear Deputy McSharry,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 31975/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In 2010, the generic penetration rate of generic medicines was less than 40% in the off-patent market. Figures up to year end 2019, show that the current generic penetration rate is 73% of volume in the off-patent market. In Europe, 67% of dispensed medicines are generics (Medicines for Europe, 2020). When considering products without patent protection, the generics volume share of the market varies from as low as 34.2% in Greece up to 80.5% in Germany.

A limited number of small molecules have lost patent or are about to lose patent in 2020 and price reductions under the IPHA agreement are pending in relation to those as generics launch. The full year impact of those reductions is likely to be in the order of €6m to Primary Care Reimbursement Service in 2021

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service

The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie