



Primary Care Reimbursement Service
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Tel: 01- 8647100

Alan Kelly, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

22nd September, 2020

PQ: 22906/20

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost in 2021 of reducing prescription charges for all persons to €1 per item with a cap of €10 and to €1.50 per item with a cap of €15; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Alan Kelly

Dear Deputy Kelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 22906/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service (PCERS) undertakes reimbursement on foot of claims submitted by Primary Care Contractors (General Practitioners, Community Pharmacies, Dentists and Optometrists/Ophthalmologists) that operate under a contract for service in the provision of services to persons with valid eligibility under the General Medical Service (GMS) scheme and the Community Drugs schemes. Detailed reports are regularly published through an online portal <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/pcrs/pcrs-publications/> dealing with various aspects of the PCERS business functions.

The HSE PCERS remit does not extend to the provision of financial analysis, based on the various scenarios involving the provision of an expanded range of services outside that encompassed by legislation and the provisions expressly referenced in existing contracts for service with Primary Care Contractors.

Data to address the specific aspects of your query may now be available from the Department of Health.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kieran Healy'.

Kieran Healy
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service