



Primary Care Reimbursement Service  
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 XKF3  
Tel: 01- 8647100

Mattie McGrath, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

PQ: 16689/21

**To ask the Minister for Health the reason prescriptions are again required to be collected weekly after being changed to monthly collections at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. -Mattie McGrath**

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 16689/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Phased Dispensing should only 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. In these circumstances the facility is available for the GP to seek approval through the phased dispensing application suite to the HSE and outline the clinical risk(s) to the patient. The intervals that a patient should attend the pharmacy to collect their phased prescription is determined as appropriate by the prescriber i.e. weekly, fortnightly etc.

There were no changes made by the HSE in relation to phased dispensing as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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](mailto:Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie)**