



Cian O'Callaghan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

20th October 2021

PQ: 48527/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he will take steps to bring the cost of xalacom eyedrops here in line with other countries, such as Spain in which the over-the-counter cost is between a quarter and a third of the cost in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Cian O'Callaghan

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 48527/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The pricing and reimbursement of all medicines in Ireland is set in compliance with the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013.

The Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013 introduced a system of generic substitution and reference pricing in Ireland, which allows patients to opt for lower cost interchangeable (i.e. generic) medicines if they are available.

Xalacom[®] eye drops are approved for reimbursement by the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS). The PCRS list of items for which contractors are reimbursed in accordance with State schemes is available at: <https://www.sspcrs.ie/druglist>

The active substances in Xalacom[®] eye drops are Timolol and Latanoprost. At this time, there are no generic alternatives containing this combination of active substances available for reimbursement by the HSE PCRS.

The HSE manages the process around pricing and reimbursement of medicines funded within the public health system, but has no role in the pricing of medicines outside those reimbursed by the HSE.

Xalacom® eye drops are available for supply through pharmacies in Ireland subject to a valid prescription and are not designated by the competent authority, the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) for “Over The Counter” supply.

The HSE also has no role in the setting or monitoring of private prescription dispensing charges. Dispensing fees under the Community Drugs Schemes (including the GMS, DPS and LTI) are set out in statutory instruments. The most recent SI setting out dispensing fees to community pharmacists was the Health Professionals (Reduction of Payments to Community Pharmacy Contractors) Regulations 2013
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2013/si/279/made/en/pdf>

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service