



Johnny Guirke, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

23rd February 2022

PQ: 8328/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he or his Department has had any engagement with a union (the Irish Pharmacy Union) in relation to the charge currently levied on the monthly monitor dosage system for medical card holders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Johnny Guirke

Dear Deputy Guirke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 8328/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There are no reimbursement arrangements under the GMS and Community Drugs Schemes for the filling of blister packs (monitored dosage system). The Irish Pharmacy Representative Organisation (IPU) made a proposal to the Department of Health previously in this regard but it was not approved for funding. It is entirely acceptable for a pharmacy to offer, as a quality initiative, to provide a patient's medicines in such systems. However, it is a pharmacy arrangement with the patient and is not a state funded service.

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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle'.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service