



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

Colm Burke, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

19th January 2022

PQ: 1352/22

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 1352/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

A removal of the Prescription Charge for persons aged Over 70 (and their dependents) will result in a cost to the State of **c.€25m**.

Per attached

Notes

- The following costing will be based on the current Over 70's prescription charge rate of €1.00 per item.
- The costing will be prepared on the assumption that the monthly spend cap will also reduce.
- The average number of items per month in 2021 which were attracting a prescription charge is c.4.1m.
- The Pro-rata split between Under 70's and Over 70's is based on claim data received June 2021YTD.

Eligibility	No. of Eligible persons (Jun'21)	June 2021 YTD Average No. of Items per month	Average No. Items attracting PCI	Current PCI Rate	Current Monthly Cap	Revised PCI rate	Revised Monthly Cap	Additional Monthly Cost to State of reducing PCI by €1	Additional Annual Cost to State of reducing PCI by €1
Over 70	373,277	2,622,532	2,081,054	€ 1.00	€ 10.00	€ -	-	€ 2,081,054	€ 24,972,647
Total	373,277	2,622,532	2,081,054					€ 2,081,054	€ 24,972,647

A reduction of €1 in the Prescription Charge for Over 70s (and their dependents) will result in a removal of the charge for this cohort.

The above costing does not include any impact on other schemes/cohorts/claiming patterns resulting from this change.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle', written over a horizontal line.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service