



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

19th January 2022

PQ: 1353/22

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of reducing the prescription charge for all medical card holders by 50 cent and the maximum monthly amount by €5; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 1353/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

A reduction in the Prescription Charge for all medical card holders by 50 cent (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 Under 70's prescription charge rate of €1.50 per item and Over 70's prescription charge rate of €1.00 per item.
- The costing will be prepared on the assumption that the monthly spend cap of €15/€10 will also reduce to €10/€5.
- Costing based on the average number of items per month in 2021 which are 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 YTD 2021 as at the point of the original preparation of the forecast during Budget 2022.

Eligibility	Current PCI	Current Monthly Threshld	Revised PCI	Revised Monthly Cap	Average No. Items attracting PCI	Additional Monthly Cost to State of reducing PCI by €0.50	Additional Annual Cost to State of reducing PCI by €0.50
Under 70	€ 1.50	€ 15.00	€ 1.00	€ 10.00	2,021,076	€ 1,010,538	€ 12,126,456
Over 70	€ 1.00	€ 10.00	€ 0.50	€ 5.00	2,081,054	€ 1,040,527	€ 12,486,324
Total					4,102,130	€ 2,051,065	€ 24,612,779

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service