



Paul Murphy, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

12th May 2023

PQ: 20607/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm whether pharmacies use a different supplier for medical card holders and those who are buying their medications. -Paul Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 20607/23), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Medicines are added to the formal Reimbursement List following detailed assessments which include assessment of the clinical evidence, the economic evidence and the budget impact of a decision to reimburse specific indications of a medicine. The Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) is required to reimburse in line with approved decisions of the HSE and the HSE is required to formally assess each medicines and each specific use of such medicines before reimbursing them.

The list of reimbursable items with their agreed reimbursement price (i.e. price reimbursed to community pharmacy contractors under Community Drug Schemes) is published on the HSE website at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/pcrs/items/>.

It is a matter for each individual pharmacy how they procure medicines for their patients through authorised wholesalers/suppliers. Currently there are only two mainline wholesalers in Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

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

Suzanne Doyle

Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service