



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil
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Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service
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Eoin Ó Broin, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

12th May 2025

PQ: 21978/25

To ask the Minister for Health to outline the rules for the dispensing of prescriptions to medical card holders, including the number of months that can be dispensed at a time; and to confirm the way in which pharmacies are paid to dispense prescriptions under the medical card scheme. -Eoin Ó Broin

Dear Deputy Ó Broin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 21978/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

All community pharmacies in Ireland hold a Community Pharmacy Contractor Agreement for the provision of services which includes dispensing under the various Community Drug Schemes in Ireland. This includes the GMS Scheme. The agreement is published online at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/pcrs/community-pharmacy-contractor-agreement/community-pharmacy-contractor-agreement-booklet-2010.pdf>.

Under the GMS and Community Drug Schemes, only one month supply can be provided in line with administrative arrangements. This is set out to the community pharmacy contractors in their handbook and communication via Pharmacy Circular.

Fees are paid in accordance with the Public Service Pay and Pensions Act 2017 (Payments to Community Pharmacy Contractors) Regulations 2019 (as amended).

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Doyle

Primary Care Reimbursement Service

The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie