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Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service
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Brian Stanley, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

6th June 2025

PQ: 26941/25

To ask the Minister for Health if combivent/pulmicort is covered under the GMS Scheme; if not, the reason for its removal; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Brian Stanley

Dear Deputy Stanley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 26941/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Pulmicort® respules which are licensed in Ireland, are on the list of reimbursable items and reimbursed under Community Drug Schemes, including the GMS scheme.

Combivent® nebules are no longer on the list of reimbursable items since the Marketing Authorisation Holder requested to withdraw the product in 2017. Combivent® is no longer licensed with the Health Products Regulatory Authority in Ireland.

Ipramol® Steri-Nebs, which contain the same active ingredient as Combivent® nebules, are reimbursable under Community Drug Schemes and are on the published Reimbursement List. However, there is currently a reported shortage of this product as published on the HPRA website. The supplier has stated that this is as a result of unexpected increased global demand and a return date is indicated at the end of July 2025.

Where there is a shortage of a product from the Reimbursement List, the dispensing pharmacy can contact the PCRS to query reimbursement on the Community Drug Schemes. Currently Exempt Medicinal Products for Ipramol® are supported for the period of the shortage.

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