



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

22nd September 2025

PQ: 45034/25

To ask the Minister for Health if her Department will commit to allocating funding to universally subsidise inhaled asthma medications on a phased basis; and if she 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 45034/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Under the Drugs Payment Scheme (DPS) an individual or family will pay no more than the amount set out in the Regulations, currently €80, each calendar month for:

- approved prescribed drugs and medicines as listed on the formal Reimbursement List
- rental costs for a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine
- rental costs for oxygen.

Anyone currently residing in Ireland and intends to reside here for at least one year can apply for a DPS card, it is not means tested.

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 is required to reimburse in line with approved decisions of the HSE and the HSE is required to formally assess each medicine and each specific use of such medicines before reimbursing them.

Pharmaceutical companies are required to submit and pricing and reimbursement application should they wish for their licensed product to be added to the Reimbursement List. Addition of products to the Reimbursement List is underpinned by the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013.

A list of all medication and ancillaries, including asthma medication and the newer biologics for Severe Asthma under High Tech Arrangements are published online. The Reimbursement List is available here [HSE - PCRS Search Reimbursable Items](#).

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