



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

23rd September 2025

PQ: 48342/25

To ask the Minister for Health to set out the amount spent by the HSE in procuring medicines each year, and the amount spent per individual medicines supplier, from 2019 to 2025, in tabular form. -Marie Sherlock

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 48342/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) is part of the HSE, and is responsible for making payments to healthcare professionals, like GPs, dentists and pharmacists, for the free or reduced costs services they provide to the public. PCRS does not procure medicines from suppliers. It is the community pharmacy contractor who procures a medicine on the Reimbursement List and submits reimbursement claims to PCRS for payment.

The PCRS Statistical Analysis of Claims and Payments report can be found online at <https://www.sspcrs.ie/portal/annual-reporting/report/annual>

The Statistical Analysis of Claims and Payments reports published online give a breakdown of the payments made under the primary care schemes, including the General Medical Services Scheme (GMS), Drugs Payment Scheme (DPS), Long Term Illness Scheme (LTI), Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) and Community Ophthalmic Services Scheme (COSS). It includes details on the number of eligible persons availing of these schemes. There are also details on the number of pharmacy items dispensed and the number of dental treatments and optical examinations that took place. Included in the reports are the payments to suppliers and manufacturers of High Tech drugs and details of hospital payments in relation to the National Cancer Control Programme, the National Hepatitis C Treatment Programme and Multiple Sclerosis Services.

Further information on payments to suppliers and manufacturers of High Tech drugs are found online:
[High Tech Wholesaler and Manufacturer Payments](#)

Please see table below in green which are the net drugs figures reported in the PCRS management accounts 2019-2024 and August 2025 YTD.

PCRS Net Expenditure	Drugs / Medicines							Movement €m
	2019 €m	2020 €m	2021 €m	2022 €m	2023 €m	2024 €m	202508 YTD €m	
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
GP Fees & Allowances*	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
General Medical Services Scheme	€ 618.18	€ 643.37	€ 636.65	€ 666.95	€ 678.20	€ 706.16	€ 490.34	€ 27.95
High Tech Arrangement	€ 746.89	€ 793.68	€ 839.87	€ 878.44	€ 952.31	€ 973.75	€ 687.35	€ 21.43
Long Term Illness Scheme	€ 216.01	€ 235.45	€ 242.25	€ 262.88	€ 290.03	€ 304.93	€ 217.68	€ 14.90
Drug Payments Scheme	€ 60.48	€ 67.41	€ 75.47	€ 110.89	€ 128.77	€ 145.70	€ 117.16	€ 16.93
	€1,641.56	€ 1,739.91	€ 1,794.24	€ 1,919.16	€2,049.32	€2,130.53	€ 1,512.54	€ 81.21
Hardship Arrangement	€ 12.67	€ 12.99	€ 11.70	€ 12.34	€ 12.81	€ 13.40	€ 8.44	€ 0.59
Maternity & Infant	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
Free Contraception for Women Scheme	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 7.31	€ 9.46	€ 7.18	€ 2.15
National Immunisation Programme	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
Methadone Treatment Scheme	€ 3.88	€ 3.93	€ 4.02	€ 3.90	€ 3.60	€ 3.37	€ 2.06	€ 0.23
OPIT (moved to High Tech in 2021)	€ 3.65	€ 3.56	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
Health Amendment Act	€ 1.85	€ 1.00	€ 1.13	€ 1.06	€ 1.14	€ 1.20	€ 0.81	€ 0.06
EEA	€ 0.70	€ 0.27	€ 0.12	€ 0.10	€ 0.31	€ 0.33	€ 0.19	€ 0.02
Dental Treatment Service	€ 0.82	€ 0.64	€ 0.58	€ 0.39	€ 0.23	€ 0.26	€ 0.18	€ 0.04
Community Ophthalmic Services	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 11.00	€ 9.75	€ 6.70	€ 1.24
Heartwatch	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
	€ 23.57	€ 22.39	€ 17.55	€ 17.78	€ 36.39	€ 37.77	€ 25.56	€ 1.38
OPAT (Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy)	€ 5.47	€ 6.26	€ 7.06	€ 9.23	€ 9.55	€ 9.09	€ 6.08	€ 0.45
HIV Pre-Exposure Management Programme	€ -	€ 1.00	€ 0.16	€ 1.07	€ 1.59	€ 1.91	€ 1.42	€ 0.33
Bespoke Funding Arrangements	€ 21.59	€ 22.55	€ 26.83	€ 25.76	€ 22.23	€ 26.54	€ 17.59	€ 4.31
Oncology Drug Management Scheme	€ 56.30	€ 60.28	€ 74.85	€ 112.11	€ 129.26	€ 162.84	€ 138.30	€ 33.58
Hepatitis C Eradication Programme	€ 19.24	€ 2.35	€ 8.30	€ 4.77	€ 0.72	€ 5.29	€ 3.81	€ 4.57
M.S. Drug Management Arrangement	€ 10.46	€ 12.01	€ 17.16	€ 24.41	€ 29.45	€ 34.71	€ 29.00	€ 5.26
	€ 113.06	€ 104.45	€ 134.37	€ 177.35	€ 192.80	€ 240.39	€ 196.20	€ 47.59
Administration - Pay & Non-Pay								
Total	€1,778.19	€ 1,866.74	€ 1,946.16	€ 2,114.30	€2,278.51	€2,408.68	€ 1,734.30	€ 130.17
% Year on year net increase	5.01%	4.98%	4.25%	8.64%	7.77%	5.71%	-28.00%	

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