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15th June 2022

Circular 016/22

Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) Medications Supply

Dear Pharmacist,

Please find enclosed a letter from Dr Cliona Murphy, Clinical Director, National Women & Infants Health Programme in relation to the supply of HRT.

You are reminded that one month's supply is the maximum quantity allowed under the GMS and Community Drug Schemes.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Flanagan', written over a horizontal line.

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin

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To: Prescribers & Community Pharmacists

Re. Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) Medications Supply

Date: 14th June 2022

Dear All,

Following a successful awareness campaign on the potential benefits of Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) medications, healthcare professionals have seen a significant increase in demand for these medicinal products which has, at times, unfortunately outstripped available supply.

On 19th May, the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, met with representatives of Marketing Authorisation Holders (MAHs) of products implicated in the recent HRT shortages, together with Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), Health Service Executive and Irish Pharmaceutical Union (IPU) representatives. Colleagues from the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) also attended including an ICGP representative and the Clinical Director of the programme.

During the meeting, representatives of the MAHs advised that there is now sufficient stock available of most HRT medicines to meet current demand. In line with current forecasting, MAHs expect that any remaining stock shortages will be resolved by the end of July 2022.

During the next few weeks, while HRT supply continues to stabilise, we ask that prescribers and community pharmacists continue to work closely together to ensure that patients' needs are met, and that patients have access to clinically appropriate treatments. Close liaison between prescribers and pharmacists is essential for best patient care especially during periods of supply chain disruption. We recognise the value for patients of this close relationship and welcome continued engagement on this issue.

In order to protect the available supply, it is also important that patients are asked not to seek supplies of medicines over and above their normal requirements as doing so will disrupt existing stock levels and hinder the supply of medicines for others.

With best wishes,

Dr Cliona Murphy, Clinical Director, National Women & Infants Health Programme