



29th October 2019

Circular 39/19

Re: Discretionary Hardship Applications arising from Product Shortages for GMS Reimbursable Items

Dear Pharmacist,

From November 2019, there will no longer be a requirement for a doctor's signature on the HD1 form where the Hardship application arises due to a shortage of a product that is on the GMS Reimbursement List (for example; recent shortage of tamoxifen, Septrin® formulations).

Where a product shortage occurs and the supplier does not make arrangements for a temporary code with the HSE, (Temporary Codes can only be issued where there is an agreed supplier and price) reimbursement support for the Exempt Medicinal Product (EMP) is available, provided that the price is not excessive (i.e. the cost should be reasonable in the context of schemes). From November 2019, for product shortages of GMS Reimbursable Items, a copy of the HD1 form signed and stamped by the pharmacy, a copy of the prescription and a proforma invoice will suffice as an application under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements.

This amendment to HSE Standard Operating Procedures will be monitored and reviewed after six months so that the HSE can be assured that no unintended consequences arise for costs to the HSE.

The HD2 form and supporting invoice should be submitted to the local office in the normal manner for payment.

For those with DPS eligibility, claims for the Exempt Medicinal Product (EMP) can be submitted through the existing '777' arrangements. Invoices must be supplied in all cases for the claim to be paid.

Pharmacists should endeavour to procure the most cost-effective Exempt Medicinal Product on an ongoing basis.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Flanagan'.

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Reimbursement and Eligibility