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Health Service Executive

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Circular 033/16.

High Tech Medicines Arrangement- Electronic High Tech Stock Return System

Dear Pharmacist,

Over recent years, due to growth in the volume of High Tech drugs dispensed, and the high cost of these drugs, expenditure on the High Tech arrangement has increased considerably. Whilst the High Tech Arrangement is regarded as line efficient and convenient for patients, the HSE continually strives to deliver further efficiencies where possible. In order to ensure the optimal usage of High Tech medicines, the HSE will be providing access to an on-line High Tech Stock Return (HTSR) System to both pharmacies and High Tech medicine suppliers. This system will be available, as an additional menu option via the on-line browser, from 1st of July 2016.

The system will allow pharmacies to:

- submit details of non-refrigerated stock available for return
- check the status of return requests they have submitted
- view responses from suppliers relating to stock return requests, and
- ensure that stock suitable for return is collected by supplier

In turn, suppliers will be able to acknowledge receipt of a pharmacy request, accept or reject the request and, if accepted arrange for the collection of stock available for return. The system can also be used to record ordering errors on the part of either the supplier or the pharmacy.

High Tech medications are valuable commodities, both in terms of their effect on patient well-being and their fiscal cost. It is imperative that all involved in the High Tech arrangement play their part in ensuring that stock is appropriately placed within the supply, prescribing and dispensing process i.e. with the pharmacy just prior to patient need.

It is also imperative that High Tech stock, which is still viable but surplus to the current requirements of the pharmacy, is made available to suppliers for redistribution wherever possible. To this end, this system is available for use by pharmacies wishing to notify suppliers of the availability of such stock.

It should be noted that opened partial packs, damaged packs, packs already labelled, expired stock and stock within four months of its expiry date is not suitable for return and must be destroyed when its expiry date is reached under the protocols currently employed in your pharmacy. Details of such out of date stock should also be recorded on the system.

In order to assist you with your use of the HTSR System, a User manual will be provided. You will also find on-line assistance available to you each time you log in to the system.

We look forward to your continued co-operation and assistance in administering the High Tech medicines arrangement.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Marie Hoey
Assistant National Director
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility