



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seirbhís Aisíoca Príomhchúraim
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Circular no. 015/2013

1st August 2013

Dear Pharmacist,

I refer to Circular no. 010/2013 and to Statutory Instrument 279 of 2013, which was included with Circular no. 010/2013.

I wish to advise that the Minister for Health made Regulations on 24th July 2013 to reduce payments to Community Pharmacy Contractors. In accordance with section 9 (3) of the FEMPI Act 2009, the Regulations are effective from the 24th July 2013.

These regulations give effect to decisions of the Minister for Health following review of fees and allowances paid to community pharmacists in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2009. The Minister's decision has the following effect:

- Elimination of 20% retail mark-up in respect of items dispensed under the Drug Payment Scheme, the Long Term Illness Scheme, the European Economic Area Scheme and the Health (Amendment) Act 1996 Scheme.

I would draw your attention to the provisions of section 9 (8) of the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act, 2009. Section 9 (8) allows a Community Pharmacy Contractor who does not wish to continue to render services on behalf of the HSE on the basis of the new payment arrangements to withdraw his/her services if he/she so wish following 30 days written notice of his/her intention to do so. In any such event, Section 9 (9) of the Act allows the HSE to engage the services of another professional to ensure that services continue to be available.

I hope the foregoing clarifies matters in relation to the revised fee schedules for you.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Burke
Primary Care Reimbursement Service