



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Circular No. 019/11

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Dear Pharmacist,

Wholesalers have been submitting High Tech Invoices for payment electronically for some months now enabling the HSE to more closely monitor orders placed by Pharmacy Contractors against current requirements for High Tech Medicines. We hope to reduce all stock held to that compatible with immediate patient need and seek your cooperation in ensuring that the 'just in time' delivery service is maximised.

Pharmacists are asked to be vigilant in their record keeping and ensure that claims presented to the PCRS in respect of High Tech Medicines are complete and accurate. Incidences where the number of packs recorded as dispensed are not correct or a total pack has been dispensed where only a partial pack was required for the patient's monthly prescription have been encountered previously.

Pharmacists are also reminded of the legislative requirements in relation to the maximum validity of any prescription i.e. six months. It is even more important to ensure that the prescriber's intention for duration of therapy is carefully monitored for High Tech Medicines.

While the High Tech Arrangements are regarded as line efficient and convenient for patients, the HSE wishes to deliver efficiencies where possible. The annual stock take of High Tech Medicines has identified stock held where the pharmacy did not have any active patients. We wish to reduce this stockholding within existing constraints.

It appears that approximately 50% of the stock that is no longer required at any particular pharmacy location does not consist of 'fridge items'. We are exploring how this 'non fridge' stock can re-enter the supply chain without additional cost to the HSE.

We have become aware that some pharmacies have been approached to 'sell on' High Tech Medicines for other markets. Any such practice is wrong and will be considered as fraudulent activity. The HSE will take all steps, including termination of the Community Pharmacy Contractor Agreement with the HSE, to ensure that such diversion of scarce resources does not occur.

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Burke
Primary Care Reimbursement Service