31st January 2025

Circular 004/25

Dear Pharmacist,

As you are aware, the Minister for Health signed the Commencement Order for the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013 on 24 June 2013. In compliance with the legislation, please find set out below the reference prices effective 1st March 2025 for the groups of interchangeable products listed:

Product	Group	Price per 200 dose inhaler*	Price per Inhaler
Salbutamol Pressurised Inhalation Susp. 100 mcg.	IC0078-138-053	€3.57	€3.57

*Pro rata prices will apply for different pack sizes as appropriate

From 1st March 2025, the HSE will reimburse the notified reference price for the relevant interchangeable products detailed above unless informed by the pharmacist that the prescriber has stated 'Do Not Substitute' on any prescription presented for dispensing for any of the products in interchangeable groups.

Under the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013, an interchangeable medicinal product should only be exempted from substitution for a patient when the prescriber is satisfied that there are clinical reasons for the exemption.

Where a product is prescribed that is within one of the groups of interchangeable medicinal products, having completed the dispensing function, pharmacists are asked to record how the medical practitioner has prescribed by confirming one of the following:

a) INN Prescribed
b) Branded Generic Prescribed
c) Proprietary Prescribed
d) 'Do Not Substitute' invoked

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan,
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility.