



27<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Circular 006/25

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 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 for the groups of interchangeable medicinal products listed:

Product	Group	Price Per 120 actuation Nasal Spray*	Price Per Nasal Spray Pack
Azelastine/Fluticasone Nasal Spray Susp.137 mcg./50 mcg.	IC0166-204-070	€7.39	€7.39

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

From 1<sup>st</sup> May 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

If a patient presents with a valid paper or Healthmail prescription 'Do Not Substitute' must be stated clearly on the prescription by the prescriber against the particular product. It is important for the pharmacy to ensure that a copy of the prescription is retained and made available to the PCRS as necessary for audit/review to validate any claim for extra costs arising.

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan,  
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility.