



20th June 2019

Circular 016/19

Re: Non First-Line Standard Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS)

Dear Pharmacist,

Please find enclosed a list of products (List A) that are recommended as first-line choice when prescribing standard ONS.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the requirement for prior reimbursement approval for non first-line standard ONS (List B) by prescribers or HSE employed dieticians. A reimbursement application system for non first-line standard ONS will be live from **1st July 2019**.

In this regard, please also find enclosed a letter from Prof Michael Barry, Clinical Lead for the Medicines Management Programme (MMP) to General Practitioners outlining the changes to the reimbursement of standard ONS in more detail. A prescribing 'Tips and Tools' summary document has also been developed and some FAQs for healthcare professionals. To assist further, the HSE has provided a simple patient information leaflet which you may wish to use in your pharmacy. The information will also be available on the MMP website (www.hse.ie/yourmedicines).

There will be no requirement to apply for reimbursement approval of first-line standard ONS products (List A).

Approval can be confirmed through the pharmacy 'Secure Scheme Checker' under 'Patient Specific Arrangements'. Reimbursement approvals may take up to 3 working days before approval or non-approval will be communicated back to the GP through the Doctor Application Suite. Claims submitted for patients who are not approved for products on List B will not be paid. However, where a patient is using a product on List B via an enteral feeding tube, PCRS is satisfied to approve in these circumstances. Approval will be forthcoming on receipt of an online application identifying enteral tube feeding as the prescribing indication.

You are reminded that prior approval for reimbursement under GMS and Community Drug Schemes does not apply to any other clinical nutritional product outside of List B.

Your co-operation with this prescribing initiative is appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Marie Hoey
Primary Care Reimbursement and Eligibility