



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seirbhís Aisióca Príomhchúraim
Bealach amach 5 an M50
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Circular No: 025/13

18th November 2013

Re: Administration of the Long Term Illness Scheme

Dear Pharmacist,

I am writing to inform you of important changes to the administration of the Long Term Illness Scheme. The HSE has reviewed its policy of insisting that patients who hold medical card eligibility use that eligibility to the fullest extent possible.

Patients who hold both an LTI book and GMS card can use their LTI eligibility to access their approved medication needs for their LTI condition. Patients who have one of the 15 Long Term Illnesses can receive a Medical Card and retain and use a Long Term Illness Book. All local health offices have been advised that they should process Long Term Illness Book applications where the patient holds a medical card.

With effect from 01 December 2013, where patients have their approved medicines dispensed under their LTI book, they should not be charged the prescription charge.

In order to discharge our accountability function, it may be necessary for the HSE to request copies, from time to time, of prescriptions from pharmacies, in respect of persons holding LTI eligibility. I refer you to circulars 19/07 and 7/09 in this regard. Therefore, Pharmacists are advised to either retain (with the patient's agreement) or photocopy prescriptions for persons with LTI eligibility at pharmacy level to avoid any difficulties arising.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Burke
Primary Care Reimbursement Service