



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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28th February 2017

Circular 008/17

Dear Pharmacist,

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, in his Budget 2017 speech, outlined changes to the prescription charge threshold for persons aged 70 & over and their dependents. The Minister for Health has now requested the Health Service Executive to implement this change with immediate effect.

From 1st March 2017, the prescription charge for persons aged 70 & over, and their dependents, will reduce from €2.50 to €2.00 per item and the monthly cap for prescription charges will decrease from €25.00 to €20.00 for this cohort.

To support pharmacists the PCRS:

- Has made available an updated online service, via the enhanced eligibility confirmation (secure checker), which will confirm the appropriate prescription charge for each individual medical card holder.
- Will make a list available to you of medical card holders who had medicines dispensed under the GMS scheme in your pharmacy during the period November 2016 to January 2017 and who are eligible for the reduced charge from 1st March 2017. This information will be made available to you via the Pharmacy Application Suite in the coming days.
- Has provided an online portal to enable families who wish to establish a 'family group' to do so on www.medicalcard.ie. Persons that do not have access to the internet may contact us directly on lo-call 1890 252 919.

We will continue to work with the IPU and pharmacy IT vendors, through the pharmacy interface forum, to enable an integrated solution. In the meantime, while the integrated solution is being developed, we thank you for your assistance in ensuring that those aged 70 and over and their dependents benefit from the reduced charges.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Marie Hoey
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility