



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seirbhís Aisióca Príomhchúraim
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Health Service Executive
Primary Care Reimbursement Service
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Circular No 027/13

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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 line with the new legislation, reference price reimbursement has commenced in respect of claims for Atorvastatin products dispensed by pharmacists from 1 November 2013.

Set out below are the reference prices for the next group of interchangeable medicinal products for which a reference price has been determined by the HSE.

Product	Price per 28	Price per tab/cap	Price per 7	Price per 14
Esomeprazole 20mg	€6.44	€0.2300	€1.61	€3.22

The HSE is considering further an appropriate reference price for Esomeprazole 40mg. A further communication will issue when the reference price for the 40mg strength has been determined.

From 1 January 2014, the HSE will reimburse the notified reference price for the relevant interchangeable Esomeprazole 20mg products unless informed by the pharmacist that the GP has stated 'Do not substitute' in his/her own handwriting on any prescription presented for dispensing for any of the products in interchangeable groups.

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 a Non GMS prescription where the prescriber has written 'Do Not Substitute' it is important for the pharmacy to ensure that a photocopy of the prescription is retained so it can be made available to the PCRS as necessary to validate any claim for extra costs arising.

Your cooperation in ensuring a smooth transition for patients is requested.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Burke
Primary Care Reimbursement Service