



Circular 026/23

1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

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> October 2023 for the groups of interchangeable medicinal products listed:

| Product                                  | Group          | Price per 14* | Price per Tablet |
|--|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Clarithromycin Film Coated Tabs. 250 mg. | IC0072-130-003 | €3.86         | €0.2757          |

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

| Product  | Group          | Price per 20* | Price per 60* | Price per Nebule |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Salbutamol/Ipratropium bromide Nebuliser Soln. 0.5 mg./2.5 mg. | IC0081-136-052 | €4.17         | €12.52        | €0.2086          |

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

From 1st October 2023, the HSE will reimburse the notified reference price for the relevant interchangeable products detailed above 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. As per Circular 16/20, during the COVID 19 emergency, where the prescriber wishes the patient to access the proprietary product rather than the reference priced generic alternative, 'Do Not Substitute' can be computer generated on the prescription rather than in the prescriber's own handwriting.

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:

- INN Prescribed
- Branded Generic Prescribed
- Proprietary Prescribed
- 'Do Not Substitute' invoked

It is important for the pharmacy to ensure that a copy 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 co-operation in ensuring a smooth transition for patients is requested.

Yours faithfully,  
Shaun Flanagan,  
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility.