



Circular 022/2022

Re: Claiming for Paxlovid™ services

28<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Pharmacist,

I refer to previous correspondence Circular 009/22.

A bespoke ordering process has been introduced for Paxlovid™ which is delivered at zero ingredient cost to pharmacies who order the product on foot of a valid prescription. Pharmacists are reminded that, to ensure reimbursement for the service, a copy of the prescription must be forwarded by Healthmail to [Pharmacy.response@hse.ie](mailto:Pharmacy.response@hse.ie). The PCRS is conducting a retrospective analysis to align supplies delivered by UDD with copy prescriptions. The MMP will be writing to Prescribers for outcome data in the coming months as stewardship of this novel product is ongoing.

An Administrative code, 89181 has been assigned for the product for which a Patient Care Fee (equivalent to a High Tech Fee) will be reimbursed when dispensing the product to a patient.

89181 Paxlovid™ Film Coated Tabs. 150/100 mg. 30 €0.00

Paxlovid™ is intended to be prescribed in both Primary and Secondary care and as such is not a High Tech Product and is not ordered through the High Tech Hub. A Patient care fee will be paid for the professional service provided when dispensing or when exercising professional judgement not to dispense this product in respect of which particular care is required in relation to drug – drug interaction profile and renal clearance. Pharmacists are also asked to be mindful that antivirals will not work if not dispensed within 5 days of symptom onset.

As the product is not a High Tech Product, the following process applies and should be used prospectively.

1. Vendor systems will accept Administrative Code 89181 when it is claimed under High Tech Arrangements using the patient's eligibility number and the agreed Patient Care Fee will be reimbursed. We originally intended to pay all claims by adjustment but noted 191 claims had landed on our platform for payment at the end of June. Further to a cross analysis with Pharmacy.Response records, it appeared expedient to enable those to pay. We propose to continue in the same manner for July claims.
2. Where the person does not have valid established eligibility (American Patients) the HSE will pay the Patient Care Fee by adjustment which will be visible on the summary page of your itemised listing. The public health imperative to reduce the spread of COVID is such that all persons with COVID will be treated free of charge while staying in Ireland.

3. An Administrative code, 89104 has been assigned for use in cases where professional judgement has been exercised and a decision has been made by the Pharmacist not to dispense the Paxlovid™. Claims for Non Dispensing should be submitted in the current month under the High Tech arrangements including the reason for the decision 'not to dispense'. The Paxlovid™ Non - Dispensing Patient Care Fee does not apply in the same manner as High Tech Products for three months after supply.
4. Where a patient already accesses High Tech Medicines in the month that Paxlovid™ is dispensed (or a non-dispensing fee is claimed for an item dispensed in the previous three months), a second Patient Care Fee will be paid by adjustment. This will be visible on the summary page of your itemised listing.
5. Returns can be accommodated where a patient does not return for the product or the decision 'not to dispense' arises because 5 days have elapsed from symptom onset. The HSE has agreed with UDD that dedicated returns timeslots will be agreed in a couple of months and pharmacies should continue to keep the HSE informed when product ordered is not dispensed.

It is clear that prescribing of Paxlovid™ is increasing. Information for patients and the public is available on the HSE website: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/paxlovid/>.

Yours faithfully,



Shaun Flanagan  
Primary Care Reimbursement Service