



30th August 2024

Circular 015/24

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 1st October 2024 for the groups of interchangeable products listed:

Product	Group	Price per 28*	Price per Tablet
Bicalutamide Film Coated Tabs. 50 mg.	IC0137-023-003	€26.67	€0.952

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

Product	Group	Price per 1*	Price per Tablet
Ibandronic Acid Film Coated Tabs. 150 mg.	IC0141-062-003	€5.69	€5.69

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

Product	Group	Price per 56*	Price per Tablet
Ivabradine Film Coated Tabs. 5 mg.	IC0145-001-003	€13.60	€0.2428
Ivabradine Film Coated Tabs. 7.5 mg.	IC0145-041-003	€18.49	€0.3301

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

Product	Group	Price per 2*	Price per 6*	Price per Tablet
Sumatriptan Film Coated Tabs. 100 mg.	IC0143-024-014	€3.13	€9.40	€1.566

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

Product	Group	Price per 14*	Price per 28*	Price per 30*	Price per Tablet
Zolpidem Film Coated Tabs. 10 mg.	IC0135-002-003	€1.26	€2.53	€2.71	€0.09

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

From 1st October 2024, the HSE will reimburse the notified reference price for the relevant interchangeable products detailed above unless informed by the pharmacist that the prescriber has stated 'Do Not Substitute' on any prescription presented for dispensing for any of the products in interchangeable groups.

Under the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013, an interchangeable medicinal product should only be exempted from substitution for a patient when the prescriber is satisfied that there are clinical reasons for the exemption.

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 with a valid paper or Healthmail prescription (including a High Tech Prescription Form), 'Do Not Substitute' must be stated clearly on the prescription by the prescriber against the particular product. It is important for the pharmacy to ensure that a copy of the prescription is retained and made available to the PCRS as necessary for audit/review to validate any claim for extra costs arising.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Flanagan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shaun Flanagan,
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility.