



Circular 016/23

27th April 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 1st June 2023. In compliance with the legislation, please find set out below the reference prices effective 1st June 2023 for the groups of interchangeable medicinal products listed:

| Product | Group | Price per 84* | Price per 120* | Price per Tablet |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Betahistine Tabs. 8 mg. | IC0084-009-002 | €4.08 | €5.83 | €0.0486 |
| Betahistine Tabs. 16 mg. | IC0084-038-002 | €7.26 | €10.37 | €0.0864 |

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

| Product | Group | Price per 7* | Price per 28* | Price per Tablet |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| Esomeprazole Gastro-Resistant Caps./Tabs. 40 mg. | IC0004-004-016 | €1.44 | €5.75 | €0.2054 |

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

| Product | Group | Price per 28* | Price per Tablet |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Etoricoxib Film Coated Tabs. 90 mg. | IC0108-166-003 | €11.19 | €0.3996 |

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

| Product | Group | Price per 28* | Price per Tablet |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Olanzapine Orodispersible Tabs. 10 mg. | IC0007-002-038 | €12.40 | €0.4429 |

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

| Product | Group | Price per 14* | Price per Tablet |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Omeprazole Gastro-Resistant Caps./Tabs. 40 mg. | IC0010-004-016 | €2.42 | €0.1729 |

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

| Product | Group | Price per 10* | Price per 15* | Price per 30* | Price per Tablet |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Ondansetron Film Coated Tabs./Oral Lyophilisate 4 mg. | IC0114-008-061 | €21.60 | €32.40 | €64.80 | €2.16 |
| Ondansetron Film Coated Tabs./Oral Lyophilisate 8 mg. | IC0114-009-061 | €28.08 | €42.12 | €84.24 | €2.808 |

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



| Product | Group | Price per 28* | Price per 98* | Price per 500* | Price per Tablet |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Rosuvastatin Film Coated Tabs. 5 mg. | IC0006-001-003 | €2.42 | €8.47 | €43.21 | €0.0864 |
| Rosuvastatin Film Coated Tabs. 10 mg. | IC0006-002-003 | €3.33 | | €59.46 | €0.1189 |
| Rosuvastatin Film Coated Tabs. 20 mg. | IC0006-003-003 | €4.84 | | €86.43 | €0.1729 |
| Rosuvastatin Film Coated Tabs. 40 mg. | IC0006-004-003 | €8.16 | | | €0.2914 |

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

| Product | Group | Price per 30* | Price per Tablet |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Solifenacin Succinate Film Coated Tabs. 5 mg. | IC0116-001-003 | €9.72 | €0.324 |
| Solifenacin Succinate Film Coated Tabs. 10 mg. | IC0116-002-003 | €12.96 | €0.432 |

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

From 1st June 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:

- a) INN Prescribed
- b) Branded Generic Prescribed
- c) Proprietary Prescribed
- d) 'Do Not Substitute' invoked

If a patient presents with a Healthmail prescription, '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.

Your co-operation in ensuring a smooth transition for patients is requested.

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan,
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility.