



## IRELAND

### Pharmaceutical System in Ireland

#### Pricing of Pharmaceuticals

The IPHA (Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association) Agreement continues at the moment with a guiding reference to prices in specified EU Member States – Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain and United Kingdom. However, the statutory foundation for Pricing rests in the Health (Pricing & Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013 which introduced Reference Pricing.

#### New Chemical Entities

NCE are referred for a Health Technology Assessment to assist HSE decisions.

#### Product Approval

Approved products are added to the Reimbursable List. This includes the GMS and Community Drugs Schemes and also High Tech Arrangements.

#### Medicines Management Programme

In 2013 the multi-disciplinary Medicines Management Programme headed by the National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC) and the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) in collaboration with the HSE-Primary Care Reimbursement Service (HSE-PCRS) was established.

#### Aims of the MMP include

- Ensuring that patients have access to the essential medicines that they need
- Facilitating more cost-effective prescribing with initiatives in relation to high-cost medicines
- Ensuring value for money in relation to medicines and
- Enhancing evidence based prescribing and optimising patient safety through a reduction in medication related adverse events.

#### Preferred Drugs Initiatives

The Preferred Drugs Initiative, which identifies a single 'preferred drug' within a therapeutic drug class, offers prescribers useful guidance on selecting, prescribing and monitoring a drug for a particular condition. For each Preferred Drugs evaluation, useful 'Prescribing Tips and Tools' and 'Information for patients' are also available to download.

1. Preferred Drugs for PPIs and Statins  
PPI = Lansoprazole,  
Statin = Simvastatin
2. Preferred Drugs for SSRIs and SNRIs  
SSRI = Citalopram  
SNRI = Venlafaxine
3. Preferred Drugs for ACE Inhibitor and ARBs  
ACE Inhibitor – Ramipril  
ARB = Candesartan
4. Preferred Drugs for Urinary Incontinence & Overactive Bladder = Tolterodine ER
5. Preferred Drugs for Oral Anticoagulants = Warfarin and where Warfarin is not suitable Apixaban

#### Prescribing and Cost Guidance

Focus primarily on the associated costs of particular treatments, as well as providing useful information for prescribers and other healthcare professionals regarding the prescribing, monitoring and reimbursement of these treatments.

1. Prescribing & Cost Guidance for Inhaled Medicines for Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD)

#### Development of pharmaceutical expenditure in the last 5 available years

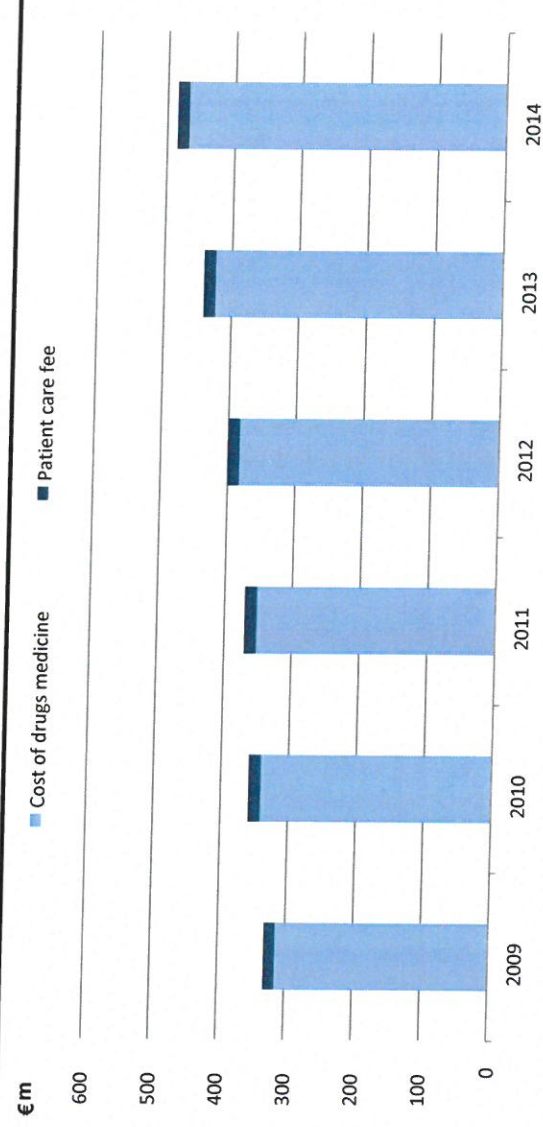
##### Reimbursement Costs: 1999 to 2014



GMS, DPS and LTI include pharmacy fees

**Expenditure on High Tech Drugs** Expenditure on the scheme was €485 million in 2014, representing almost 50% increase when compared with 2009. While the patient care fee has remained relatively stable at around €17 million a year, expenditure on drugs and medicines has increased from €315 million in 2009 to €468 million in 2014.

##### High Tech Drug Costs 2009/2014



##### New Initiatives in 2014/2015

- Core Lists for each of the Long Term Illness (LTI) conditions
- Expanding eligibility to include free GP Services to all under age 6 years and over 70 years
- Cycle of Care – Type 2 Diabetes
- Online browser for annual dataset submission Asthmatic Patients

##### Key

**GMS – General Medical Services Scheme** – This provides for people who are unable without undue hardship to arrange general practitioner medical and surgical services to receive a medical card for free general medical services. Medicinal items are prescribed from a specified Reimbursement List. Prescription Fee applies.

**DPS – Drugs Payment Scheme** – This is a co-payment scheme for people who do not have a Medical Card – an individual or family has now to pay no more than (currently set at) €144.00 in a calendar month for approved drugs, medicines and appliances.

**LTI – Long Term Illness Scheme** – Drugs and Medicines are provided free of charge to patients who suffer from any of the 16 listed illnesses – Mental Handicap, Hydrocephalus, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Haemophilia, Diabetes Mellitus, Diabetes Insipidus, Epilepsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinsonism, Cystic Fibrosis, Phenylketonuria, Acute Leukaemia, Mental Illness (Under 16yrs of age), Spinal Bifida and Conditions arising from the use of Thalidomide

**High Tech** – For the supply and dispensing of High Tech medicines through Community Pharmacies.

**HSE** – Health Service Executive