Ireland

Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2017/2018

Patient involvement in pricing and reimbursement of medicines

CHANGES IN PRICING

- Drug cost rebate for branded products increased by 0.25% to 5.5% from 1st August 2018
- Annual price realignment on 1st July 2017, 2018 and 2019 to the average price (ex-factory or equivalent) in the 14 reference states.

CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

- Monthly Co-payment for Drugs Payment Scheme reduced by €10 to €134/month from 1st January 2018.
- Per-item change on General Medical Scheme reduced by €0.50 to €2/item, and a monthly cap of €20/month, from 1st January 2018.
- Sacubitril/Valsartan (Entresto®) and Lidocaine 5% medicated plaster (Versatis®) reimbursement application system introduced from 1st December 2017/1st September 2017.
- Freestyle Libre flash glucose monitoring system reimbursement application system introduced 3rd April 2018.

OTHER CHANGES

- The HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP) published guidance on appropriate prescribing of benzodiazepines and z-drugs in the treatment of anxiety and insomnia (February 2018).
- A standard oral nutritional supplements prescribing pathway and list for adults living in the community was developed as a collaboration between HSE Primary Care and MMP (December 2017). The guidance is part of a nutrition supports online toolkit available at www.hse.ie/nutritionsupports.
- The National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) has delivered the HTA module of the Irish Pilot Patient Education Program, in conjunction with IPPOSI and EUPATI, to educate patient advocates in the terminology, purpose and methodology of HTA.

SPECIAL TOPIC: Patient Involvement in Pricing and Reimbursement of Medicines

The NCPE is committed to facilitating the involvement of patients in the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) process. The Patient Organisation Submission Process encourages Patient Organisations to gather information from their members for inclusion in the Patient Organisation Submission of Evidence Template. In particular, this template includes information on the day-to-day experience of living with the disease and the ways in which the new drug may improve this day-to-day experience. This information can help the HSE Drugs Committee (decision maker) to understand the real-world impact a new drug may have on the quality of life and daily experience of patients and carers.

Who?	How?	When?	What	Impact
• Patient Organisations • Not individual patients	• Invited and supported by NCPE to create and submit the Patient Submission of Evidence Template	• All medicines undergoing HTA in NCPE • Submitted within 90 days of HTA start	• Information on day-to-day experience • Expectations and experience of medicine under evaluation • Conflict of interest declaration	• Considered as part of HTA submission • Impact on the decision maker (HSE) unclear

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