



Dear Resident,

Stacks Pharmacy Group is nominated as the preferred pharmacy service provider for your Care Home. Within the scope of our pharmacy service to your Nursing Home, we provide at no charge:

- **Free daily delivery of medication (including emergency requirements) 364 days of the year**
- **Medication delivered in monitored dose compliance packaging**
- **Pharmacist visits for Medication Reviews with your GP as well as resident consultations and nursing staff training**
- **On call emergency service for care home nursing staff and GP's etc.**

For the various government drug schemes, there is a government charge for part payment of the medication costs to be made by the resident.

Medical Card Holders

There is a €2.00 per item charge every month on medical card prescription item. (see HSE leaflet over)
There is a monthly limit set by HSE of €20.00. You will only be billed for the specific medication provided to you.

Drug Payment Scheme (DPS)

Where a resident does not have a valid medical card, this DPS government scheme requires the payment of the first €134 per calendar month by the Drug Payment Card holder for any amounts above €134, the government will cover the remaining monthly cost of medication.

Items Not Covered by Government Schemes

Each month the government provides a list of medicines to pharmacists that they will pay for under the various drug schemes- GMS, DPS etc. For those items not covered by any government scheme, it will be necessary for the pharmacy to charge patients for these items. Examples of such items that may be charged for are vitamins, laxatives etc.

To find more about medicines or aids that are provided under the GMS (Medical Card) or DPS (Drugs Payment Scheme) schemes please go to <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/pcrs/items/>

Please note that any changes to the prescribing of any medicinal product/medicine is solely a decision between the patient and their GP.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or assistance.

We can be contacted by email at: info@stackspharmacy.ie or telephone: **01-880 0120 (Dial Option 1)**

Kind regards

Andrew Stack.
Director - Stacks Pharmacy Group

€2.00 Charge for Medical Card Prescription Items

From 1st December 2013 people with medical cards will pay a charge for medicines and other items they get on prescription from pharmacists. This was announced as part of Budget 2014. The charges will be subject to a cap of €20.00 per month for each person or family.

What does this mean for me?

If you have a medical card, this means that when you take your prescription to the pharmacist, you will be charged €2.00 for each item of medicine you receive. This €2.00 will contribute toward the cost of your medicines, and the HSE will continue to pay the rest of the cost.

What if I get a lot of items on prescription?

Some people or families may get a number of items prescribed for them, but no person or family will be liable to pay more than **€20.00 per month**.

A family is you, your spouse/partner and your children under 21 who are in full-time education.



UPDATE!

What if I am charged more than €20.00 a month?

If your family pays more than **€20.00** in a month, for example if you use different pharmacies, then you can apply to the HSE for a refund.

How do I apply for a refund?

You can apply on **www.medicalcard.ie** or at your Local Health Office. You will need to have your **Medical Card Number** (printed on the front of your card) to apply for a refund.

Do all medical card holders pay the charge?

There will be no prescription charge for methadone supplied to patients under the Methadone Treatment Protocol. These patients will pay prescription charges for other items received under the medical card scheme.

Children in the care of the HSE who have their own medical card are not liable to pay the prescription charge. This includes children in residential care, foster care, foster care with relatives and other care placements.

What if I get prescriptions under other Schemes?

The prescription charge will not apply to items supplied under the Long Term Illness Scheme, the Drugs Payment Scheme or private prescriptions. The charge does not apply to people who are covered by the Health (Amendment) Act 1996 Scheme.

For more information:

Visit **www.medicalcard.ie** or **www.hse.ie**
or

Call the HSE Infoline at **1850 24 1850**
Monday to Saturday, 8am to 8pm