



15th April 2025

RE: Implementation of the Budget 2025 HRT initiative

Dear Pharmacist,

I hugely value the very important service that community pharmacists provide, and I have exciting ambitions for the expansion of that service into the future. I want to see pharmacists working at the very top of their expertise, providing the best of professional services to their community, who place great trust in them. I also want to see pharmacists providing more professional healthcare services to their community, such as diagnosing and prescribing for common conditions such as eye infections, urinary tract infections and others.

Our path forward is informed by the work of the Expert Taskforce, which had extensive pharmacist input and I look forward to advancing this with pharmacies as the year progresses.

Meanwhile, the Government is committed to reducing the cost of HRT medicines and products for women and Budget 2025 provided funding for the provision of State-funded HRT products for women experiencing symptoms of menopause. This is another step, building on interventions in recent years, to improve care before, during, and after menopause. We have heard from many women that they often feel dismissed in their experience with menopause and that the cost of menopause care is a burden.

As you may be aware there has been substantial engagement between officials from the Department, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) in relation to the practical rollout of this measure. I have also met with the IPU on two occasions to attempt to reach an agreed resolution in this matter. It has not been possible to reach an agreement.

In line with the commitment in the Programme for Government, I would like now to initiate this new HRT arrangement from the 1st June 2025. The following conditions will apply:

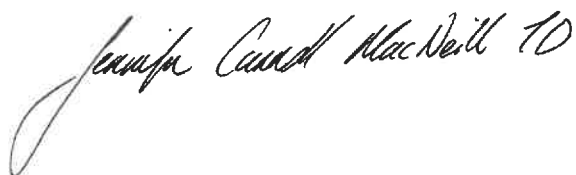
- The State will pay, in addition to the medicine costs, a **€5 dispensing fee for each and every HRT item dispensed** under this initiative including for all existing patients receiving HRT under the Community Drug Schemes.
- In addition, a **€1,000 establishment grant** will be paid to each pharmacy that signs up to provide HRT under the measure.

While it was not intended through this initiative to invest healthcare funding on dispensing fees, I want to be as flexible as I can to solve this issue for women while keeping value for money in mind. The inclusion of a dispensing fee is an indication that I recognise that pharmacists are highly trained, highly competent and trusted professionals who offer essential healthcare services to the men and women of Ireland. I know that community pharmacists put their patients at the centre of the services they provide.

The Department and HSE will commence an information campaign in the coming days providing further information for patients and HSE PCRS will issue a circular shortly regarding technical and procedural matters.

I write this letter to ask you directly to participate in this new HRT arrangement for the sake of your patients.

Many thanks,



Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD
Minister for Health



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Seirbhís Aisíocha Príomhchúraim
Plás J5, Lárionad Gnó na Páirce Thuaidh, Bealach
Amach 5, M50, An Bóthar Thuaidh, Fionnghlas, Baile
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Primary Care Reimbursement
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J5 Plaza, North Park Business Park,
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www.pcrs.ie
t 01 8647100
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15th April 2025

Circular 008/25

HRT Arrangement

Dear Pharmacist,

As part of Budget 2025 the Minister for Health announced the provision of HRT products free of charge for certain women where prescribed by her healthcare provider. This applies to women at the various stages related to menopause and includes perimenopause, post menopause, early menopause, premature menopause and medically induced menopause. The Minister for Health has announced that the HRT Arrangement will commence on 1st June 2025.

Individuals with GMS (full medical card) and Drugs Payment Scheme (DPS) eligibility will continue to access HRT products under these schemes. However, co-payments will not apply to any HRT products dispensed.

Under the HRT Arrangement a €5.00 dispensing fee per HRT medicine/product dispensed to all eligible patients, including those existing patients under the GMS/DPS schemes and all other patients prescribed HRT will apply.

Where a patient is sub-threshold (i.e. the €80 DPS co-payment is not met), claims for HRT products are submitted to PCRS for reimbursement using the DPS architecture. These claims can be submitted in the same manner as PrEP sub-threshold claims.

A communication campaign will commence in the coming days which will emphasise that eligible persons should apply for DPS eligibility online via mydps.ie.

As part of the arrangement, there is a €1,000 once-off grant available to every participating community pharmacy. Please ensure that you complete the enclosed grant application form (Appendix 1) on or before 1st June 2025 to receive the grant payment. The completed form is submitted to Contract.national@hse.ie.

The list of coded products and EMPs covered under the HRT arrangement are provided in Appendix 2. This list is subject to change as further products are added to the Reimbursement List.

Where there is a shortage of a product on the Reimbursement List, reimbursement is supported for the Exempt Medicinal Product (unlicensed medicine) where there is no suitable therapeutic alternative. Exempt Medicinal Products (EMPs) that are supported for reimbursement are submitted via exceptional arrangements using the administrative codes as follows:



EMP Medicine, non-coded item (HRT)	VAT Rate	Administrative Claiming Code
	0% VAT	77791
	23% VAT	77792

As part of the standard monthly electronic file submissions, pharmacies may be required to scan and submit supporting documentation to PCRS.PPUInvoices@hse.ie for exceptional items.

It is important to note that any receipts provided to patients for claiming as part of health expenses through Income Tax Return do not include the cost of HRT products where it has been funded by the state through this arrangement.

Reimbursement of HRT products can only be accepted through the monthly electronic file submissions. There is no mechanism in place to refund patients directly for the cost of the products dispensed. The provision of HRT products free of charge for a patient is at the point of supply.

Pharmacy queries can be submitted via email to Pharmacy.Response@hse.ie.

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 Service



HSE REF NO

Appendix 1

Pharmacy Grant Application Form for Provision of Free HRT Medicinal Products

Please complete this form and return to Contract.national@hse.ie on or before 1st June 2025 to confirm participation and receive the grant payment.

Pharmacy Name.....

I, as a Pharmacist who currently holds a contract with the Health Service Executive, hereby confirm my participation in the provision of free HRT Medicinal Products as announced by the Minister for Health for certain women where prescribed by her Healthcare Provider.

I wish to apply for the €1000 once-off grant provided to participating Community Pharmacies.

I further undertake to notify the HSE of any changes or proposed changes in respect of any information provided in this Notice of Participation form.

Please note it is intended that the information provided on this form will be published on a Pharmacy Finder Tool on the HSE Website to allow members of the public identify a participating Pharmacy.

Registered Pharmacy Details:

1.	Pharmacy Name Full Name (as it appears on the PSI Register)								
2.	Pharmacy Premises Address								
3.	Retail Pharmacy Business PSI Registration Number	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							
4.	Pharmacy Eircode	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							
5.	HSE GMS /PCRS assigned Number	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							



6.	Pharmacy Telephone Number	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>											
7.	Do you consent to your phone number provided being displayed on Pharmacy Finder	<table><tr><td></td><td>Yes</td><td></td><td>No</td></tr></table>		Yes		No							
	Yes		No										
8.	Healthmail Email												
9.	Pharmacy Email Address												
10.	Website Address												
11.	Pharmacy Opening Hours												

Signed by the Pharmacy Contract Holder: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____	Registered Pharmacy Stamp:
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Appendix 2

List of HRT Coded Products (April 2025)

Drug Code	Description	ATC Description
10631	Activelle (P.C.O. Mfg.) Tabs 1/0.5 mg	Norethisterone And Estrogen
10454	Activelle Tabs	Norethisterone And Estrogen
12463	Angeliq Tabs	Drospirenone And Estrogen
67277	Blissel Vaginal Gel 50 mcg/G	Estriol
20433	Colpogyn (Ulm) Vag Cream 0.0125 %	Estriol
18927	Crinone 8% w/w progesterone vaginal gel	Progesterone
54352	Crinone 8% w/w progesterone vaginal gel	Progesterone
18928	Crinone 8% w/w progesterone vaginal gel	Progesterone
36553	Crinone 8% w/w progesterone vaginal gel	Progesterone
20307	Cyclo-Progynova (Ulm) Tabs 2 mg	Norgestrel And Estrogen
21272	Divigel 0.1% Sachet 1 mg	Estradiol
22818	Duphaston - 10mg Dydrogesterone oral tablets	Dydrogesterone
67170	Estradiol (Sun) Vaginal Tabs 10 mcg	Estradiol
47415	Estradot Transdermal Patches 100 mcg	Estradiol
68314	Estradot Transdermal Patches 37.5 mcg	Estradiol
57226	Estradot Transdermal Patches 50 mcg	Estradiol
48323	Estradot Transdermal Patches 75 mcg	Estradiol
20527	Estriol (Ulm) Vag Cream 0.1 %	Estriol
23655	Estrofem Tabs 2 mg	Estradiol
24425	Evorel 50 Patches	Estradiol
24560	Evorel Conti Patches	Norethisterone And Estrogen
24547	Fematab Tabs 1 mg	Estradiol



24536	Fematab Tabs 2 mg	Estradiol
34236	Femoston Film Coated Tabs 1/10 mg	Dydrogesterone And Estrogen
24143	Femoston Tabs 2/10 Mg	Dydrogesterone And Estrogen
36925	Femoston-Conti Film Coated Tabs 0.5/2.5 mg/mg	Dydrogesterone And Estrogen
24164	Femoston-Conti Film Coated Tabs 1/5 mg	Dydrogesterone And Estrogen
29020	Indivina Tabs 1/2.5 mg	Medroxyprogesterone And Estrogen
29032	Indivina Tabs 1/2.5 mg	Medroxyprogesterone And Estrogen
29054	Indivina Tabs 1/5 mg	Medroxyprogesterone And Estrogen
29096	Indivina Tabs 2/5 mg	Medroxyprogesterone And Estrogen
31283	Kliogest Tabs	Norethisterone And Estrogen
78085	Lenzetto Transdermal Spray Soln 1.53 mg/Spray	Estradiol
31997	Livial (P.C.O. Mfg.) Tabs 2.5 mg	Tibolone
31801	Livial Tabs 2.5 mg	Tibolone
33526	Mirena 52 mg intrauterine delivery system	Levonorgestrel
33578	Mirena 52mg Levonorgestrel LNG-IUS	Levonorgestrel
35614	Nebido 1000 mg/4 ml, solution for injection	Testosterone Undecanoate
15628	Novofem Tabs	Norethisterone And Estrogen
20465	Oestrodose (Ulm) Skin Application Gel	Estradiol
24550	Oestrogel Actuation Gel Pump Pack 750 mcg	Estradiol
20151	Ovestin (Ulm) Vag Cream 0.1 %	Estriol
62063	Premarin Tabs 0.625 mg	Conjugated Oestrogens
62071	Premarin Tabs 1.25 mg	Conjugated Oestrogens
43645	Provera - 10mg Medroxyprogesterone acetate oral tabs	Medroxyprogesterone acetate
49140	Testarzon 20 mg/g Transdermal gel	Testosterone
62305	Testogel 16.2 mg/g, gel	Testosterone
49129	Testogel 50 mg transdermal gel in sachet	Testosterone



41800	Tibolone Aristo (Jed Pharma) Tabs 2.5 mg	Tibolone
73020	Tostran 2% Gel	Testosterone
48844	Trisequens Tabs	Norethisterone And Estrogen
67119	Utrogestan 100mg micronised progesterone oral capsule	Micronised Progesterone
51303	Vagifem Vaginal Tabs 10 mcg	Estradiol
34449	Vagirux Vaginal Tabs 10 mcg	Estradiol

List of EMPs Supported for Reimbursement under '777' Arrangements*

ATC Description	Description
Estradiol	Estradiol 25 mcg/24 hr Transdermal Patches (all brands)
Estradiol	Estradiol Valerate Inj 40 mg/ML
Estradiol	Estradiol Valerate Inj 200 mg/5 ML
Ethinylestradiol	Ethinylestradiol Tabs 2 mcg
Ethinylestradiol	Ethinylestradiol Tabs 10 mcg
Estradiol	Oestrogel 0.75mg/1.25g (0.06%) Gel
Estriol	Colpogyn Vaginal Cream
Estriol	Estriol Pessaries 0.5mg (e.g. Ortho-Gynest)
Estriol	Estriol Cream (e.g. Ovestin Cream)
Conjugated Oestrogens	Premarin Vag Cream 0.625 mg
Medroxyprogesterone And Estrogen	Premique Low Dose 0.3/1.5 mg
Medroxyprogesterone And Estrogen	Provera 2.5 mg

***Where there is a shortage of a product on the Reimbursement List, reimbursement is supported for the EMP (unlicensed medicine) where there is no suitable therapeutic alternative. For any queries in relation to reimbursement support of HRT product, please email pharmacy.response@hse.ie.**