

Drug Payment Options

Written by John Gildea

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Drug Payment Scheme (DPS)

This scheme covers families and individuals for the cost of their prescribed medicines. Under the DPS, no individual or family will have to pay more than €144 in any calendar month for approved prescribed medicines and appliances for use by that person or family in that month.

Put simply - if the cost of the combined family expense on prescribed medicines is less than €144, the cost of the medicine is what we charge. If the combined family expense reaches €144 over any calendar month, the cost to you and your family is capped at a maximum of €144.

Every resident in Ireland is entitled to apply for the scheme - there is no income requirement or other tested form of eligibility. The DPS can be used by people who hold a Long Term Illness book, but is not for use by people who hold a current Medical Card.

Residents are identified by their individual PPS numbers (previously called RSI numbers) - anyone who needs to clarify their PPS number can do so by phoning the PPS Records Office 01 874 8444. All members of a family are then classed together - providing they meet the definition of a family for the purposes of the scheme. A family is defined as a nominated adult, his/her spouse and children under 18 years. Dependants over 18 years and under the age of 23 years who are in full time education may also be included.

Persons who wish to apply for the DPS must complete the necessary application form and return it to their local area HSE region (Health Boards). Application forms are available from the pharmacy. It is good practice for families and individuals to apply for the scheme even if they do not incur large expenses on prescribed medicines - that way the cost will be capped automatically should large medicine expenses arise.

Once a registration form has been processed, each individual family member correctly listed will receive a plastic swipe card which they must present when having prescriptions filled at the pharmacy. At present, to avail of the scheme, all family members should use the same pharmacy throughout a calendar month.

MED 1 - Tax Claim for Relief fo Health Expenses

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A claim may be made for a refund of tax in respect of qualifying medical expenses incurred over the course of a year. No relief is due in respect of sums received or receivable from any other source - Insurance policy, Public/Local authority etc.

Here at Gildea's we are happy to provide annual statements for individuals and families, along with the appropriate tax claim form - just ask. Drop in anytime and have a look at one of the tax claim forms - many people do not realise the range of qualifying medical expenses - services of a doctor, prescribed medicines, maintenance or treatment in hospital, diagnostic procedures (X-rays etc.) along with maternity care and a number of other classes of payments. MED 1 forms are also available from the website www.revenue.ie under *Publications*, or by phoning LoCall 1890 30 67 06.

Medical Card Charges

Medical Card holders are liable for a Government Levy of €1.50 per item dispensed on the Medical Card scheme. The amount chargeable under this Government Levy is capped at €19.50 per family per month. For further information on all aspects of Medical Card services, applications and the Government Levy look up www.medicalcard.ie .

Long Term Illness Scheme

The Long Term Illness (LTI) scheme makes provision for the supply of qualifying medicines and appliances free of charge to individuals who suffer from certain chronic illnesses. These are : Mental Handicap, Mental Illness (for persons under 16 years only), Phenylketonuria, Cystic Fibrosis, Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Haemophilia, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Diabetes Mellitus and Diabetes Insipidus, Parkinsonism, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophies and Acute Leukaemia.

Persons who wish to apply for registration on the scheme must submit an application form, which has to be completed by their doctor, to the local HSE region (Health Board). Persons registered on the scheme are then issued with a LTI book, showing their registration number and itemising the medicines covered.

Pick up an application in Gildea's if you want to apply for the LTI scheme, or to read further about the scheme. Feel free to [email us](mailto:info@gildea.ie) with any further questions.