

Drugs Payment Scheme



We have prepared this document in order to help you through the process involved in applying for the Drugs Payment Scheme (DPS).

If you can add anything from your own experiences of the DPS, we would be delighted to hear from you, in order to help all families navigate the difficult and sometimes frustrating processes involved.

What is the Drugs Payment Scheme?

The DPS is a scheme run by the HSE to help ensure that no family spends more than €144 per month on prescription medicines and certain appliances.

Is it difficult to get?

It is not at all difficult to be approved for the DPS. Anybody who does not have a medical card is eligible. (Note: People who have GP visit cards are eligible for the DPS.) As long as you are living in Ireland, have a PPS number and do not have a medical card you will be accepted.

Can EB patients get their dressings on the DPS?

Currently there are a very limited number of dressings available on the DPS. The full list of reimbursable items through the Medical Card and DPS scheme are available here: <http://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/PCRS/items/>.
If there are items that you would like to see included on the DPS scheme please get in touch to help us shape our advocacy in relation to health entitlements.

How do you apply?

- You can download a form from <http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/schemes/drugspaymentscheme/> or you can collect a form from your Local Health Office or from your local pharmacist.
- Fill in the form with the details of all your family members and send it to your Local Health Office.
- You will be sent a card for each member of your family (children up to the age of 18 or up to the age of 23, if they are in full time education). You then bring the card to your local pharmacist, when buying your prescribed items and you will not be charged more than €144 (over the course of that calendar month).

Do you have to use the same pharmacy all the time?

You do not have to attend the same pharmacy all the time but it is advised that you do. If you attend more than one pharmacy in any one calendar month, you will have to pay out of pocket at the second and subsequent pharmacies. It is possible to claim the excess money back but it is a bit of an inconvenience. If you are on holidays, for example, and you buy your family's medication in your local pharmacy before you go, and

then need to buy more when you are in a different part of the country, you will have to pay the extra money and keep your receipt. You then send the receipts to DPS Refunds, PO Box 12012, Finglas, Dublin 11, together with a completed form which you can get from your pharmacist or download from www.drugspayment.ie.

For more information:

HSE Website. **Your Guide to the Drugs Payment Scheme**. Available at <http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/schemes/drugspaymentscheme/> [Accessed 2 July 2015]

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