HSE-Medicines Management Programme

Reimbursement of sunscreen

The Health Service Executive (HSE)-Medicines Management Programme (MMP) aims to support safe, effective and cost-effective prescribing in the Irish healthcare setting.

Applications for reimbursement of sunscreen prescribed by consultant dermatologists or transplant specialists can be made through Discretionary Hardship Arrangements for solid organ transplant recipients (SOTR) with General Medical Services (GMS) scheme eligibility. The MMP recommends that the HSE continue to reimburse sunscreen for this specific cohort of patients.

Sunscreen products with SPF 50+, high UVA protection, and higher volume products (i.e. ≥ 200 ml) with a cost up to approximately €10 per 200 ml (≤ €50 per litre) are considered suitable for reimbursement under this arrangement.

The MMP recommends that, beyond this specific patient cohort, sunscreen should not be reimbursable on the Community Drug Schemes, as sunscreen products with SPF 50+ and high UVA protection are available at a low cost in many pharmacies and supermarkets.

The MMP recommends continuation of the reimbursement of sunscreen for SOTR with GMS eligibility where prescribed by a consultant dermatologist or transplant specialist.

Sunscreen products reimbursed should be in line with below recommendations:

- Broad-spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen
  - SPF 50+
  - UVA circle logo and preferably state that it provides high UVA protection (e.g. 5 stars)
- Best-value products
  - Higher volume product (i.e. ≥ 200 ml)
  - Cost up to approximately €10 per 200 ml (≤ €50 per litre).

Version 1 June 2025