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# Prescription charges for medical card holders

If you have a medical card, you can get prescription medicines free of charge.

If you are under the age of 70 years, there is a prescription charge of €1.50 for each item. This is up to a maximum of €15 per month, for each person or family.

If you are over 70 years of age, there is a prescription charge of €1 for each item. This is up to a maximum of €10 per month, for each person or family.

We arrange refunds annually to those who have paid over their monthly limit.

## Family certificate

To avoid paying charges above the monthly limit you should register for a family certificate and give this to your pharmacist.

The certificate lists all the members of your family so the pharmacist knows to not charge them over the limit.

 [Register for a family certificate](#)

## Children in care

There are no prescription charges for children in:

- care
- foster care
- foster care with relatives and other care placements who have medical cards

If you're a carer responsible for a child in care you can claim a full refund for prescription charges.

## Refugees

If you are living in emergency reception or an orientation centre you do not need to pay prescription charges, if the centre is:

- provided under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme
- administered by the Department of Justice and Equality

## Methadone

There is no prescription charge for methadone.

## Long-term illness

The prescription charge will not apply to items supplied under:

- [the Long Term Illness Scheme](#)
- [the Drugs Payment Scheme](#)
- private prescriptions

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