



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil  
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5<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Circular 011/18

**Lidocaine 5% Medicated Plaster (Versatis®)**

Dear Pharmacist,

Please find enclosed a letter from the Medicines Management Programme setting out some enhancements for the Versatis® application process.

Where the Medicines Management Programme approve a patient, it will no longer be necessary to seek extension of approval after three months. The HSE is also extending access to this particular application system to Hospitals from April 2018.

Your cooperation with this initiative is appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Marie Hoey".

Anne Marie Hoey  
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility

## Re: Lidocaine 5% medicated plaster (VERSATIS®)

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, reimbursement changes to lidocaine 5% medicated plaster (Versatis®) came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 as outlined in circulars 032/17 and 038/17. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation and very helpful feedback to date. Currently, the Medicines Management Programme (MMP) has reviewed over 5,500 online applications and over 600 appeals.

In response to feedback received, from **1<sup>st</sup> April 2018** a number of changes will be made to the current online reimbursement application system for lidocaine 5% medicated plaster (Versatis®).

To facilitate hospital prescribers and reduce the burden on GPs, the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) has opened the reimbursement application system to hospitals under 'Services for Hospitals' on the PCRS website ([www.pcrs.ie](http://www.pcrs.ie)). Therefore, it will be no longer mandatory for the application to be submitted by GPs as all clinicians once user-registered with the PCRS will be authorised to apply for reimbursement. The same criteria will apply to all clinicians.

All patients including those with an indication of post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN) will need to be reviewed and approved by the MMP prior to the initiation of treatment. The current automatic approval for patients who received recent antiviral treatment will no longer apply.

Once a patient is approved for reimbursement support by the MMP irrespective of the indication, there will be no expiry on the duration of treatment. The application will not need to be re-submitted. This will also apply to applications currently approved by the MMP to date.

Finally, I want to reiterate that an online application **MUST** be made for reimbursement to be authorised. In the case of a negative reimbursement decision, an appeal can be sent directly by the clinician to the MMP at [mmp@hse.ie](mailto:mmp@hse.ie) or by post to the address below. It is imperative that all additional information supporting the use of lidocaine 5% medicated plaster (Versatis®) is submitted in order to assess the unmet clinical need and to ensure an informed reimbursement decision.

I refer you to the updated 'Tips and Tools' and 'Questions and Answers for Healthcare Professionals' on the MMP website at [www.hse.ie/yourmedicines](http://www.hse.ie/yourmedicines).

With best wishes,



Professor Michael Barry, National Clinical Lead, Medicines Management Programme,  
Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Trinity Centre for Health Sciences, St. James's Hospital, Dublin 8.