

Puzzled by pricing of face masks

AS a consumer, I am very puzzled by the recent statement from the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry on the maximum pricing for the three-layer (ear loop) type of face masks.

It has been reported in many newspapers that the maximum retail price for this category is 80sen per piece and the wholesale price per box is RM25.

I would like to know whether the price of RM25 per box is for consumers buying from pharmacies or for wholesalers selling to pharmacies.

Some pharmacies interpret this as the wholesaler to pharmacy price, hence their retail price per box (50 pieces) is RM40, i.e. 50 x 80sen. Other pharmacies are selling one box at RM25.

I checked the ministry's webpage and the pricing structure is not clear there either. Can someone give a clear explanation, please?

If the retail price per piece is 80sen, how can the retail price per box (50 pieces) be RM40 (based on 50 x 80sen)? What would the advantage be for consumers who want to buy in bulk, say five boxes?

PUZZLED
Petaling Jaya