



Rannán na nOspidéal Ghéarmhíochaine
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Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

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Deputy Kevin O'Keeffe
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

19th December 2019

PQ 51650/19* *To ask the Minister for Health if the funding available to severe asthma centres for anti-IL5 inhibitor treatments will be increased in the HSE national service plan 2020, in view of recent reports of a significant shortfall in funding and large waiting lists for eligible patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy O'Brien,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

Improving outcomes for patients with Severe Refractory Eosinophilic Asthma remains a priority for the HSE. Since 2018 funding has been approved for a total of 147 patients to access anti-IL5 therapy. The National Clinical Programme for Asthma has collaborated with the Acute Hospitals Drug Management Programme to develop protocols for anti-IL5 therapies.

The protocols include clinical criteria to ensure patients are prioritised on the basis of clinical need and the potential for treatment benefit. Additional resources are being made available for the provision of anti-IL5 therapy for the treatment of Severe Refractory Eosinophilic Asthma in those acute hospitals designated as severe asthma centres in 2020 and this will ensure patient access to anti-IL5 therapy will continue in 2020.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Byrne
Assistant National Director
Acute Operations