

Seirbhís Aisioca Príomhchúraim  
Bealach amach 5 an M50, Án Bóthar Thuaidh, Fionnghlas,  
Baile Átha Cliath 11. D11 XKF3



Primary Care Reimbursement Service  
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11,  
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Mr. Marc McSharry, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

24<sup>th</sup> July, 2019

PQ: 30371/19

**To ask the Minister for Health the anticipated savings the HSE will generate through the best value biological medicines initiative recently launched by the Medicines Management Programme in 2019 and 2020; the proportion of these savings that will be reinvested into new medicines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Marc MacSharry**

Dear Deputy McSharry,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 30371/19), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In 2018, the HSE under the approved National Service Plan 2019 was tasked with making savings of €19m in addition to all other savings plans already in train, of which Biosimilars were a key component. The HSE was authorised to invest €10m of these savings in new medicines in 2019. The MMP Best Value Biologic initiative is part of these saving plans, as is the recent introduction of a gain share system, the introduction of a High Tech Hub and ongoing communications with and to Acute Hospitals and clinicians / specialists in relation to the best value biologics. In particular, the continued support of Rheumatologists, Dermatologists and Gastro-enterologists is required to build biosimilar uptake in the Community Drugs Schemes.

The HSE National Service Plan for 2020 has not been agreed. The level of savings and the proportions of such savings that might be invested in new medicines in 2020 would be expected to be a matter for discussion under the 2020 NSP process and would involve discussions between the HSE, Department of Health and Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kieran Healy'.

Kieran Healy  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service