



John Brassil, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

4th December, 2019

PQ: 48231/19

To ask the Minister for Health the status of the implementation of the HSE's best-value biologics process; if the HSE has plans to review this process to drive greater adoption of the designated best-value biological drug; if the HSE will expand this programme to further therapy areas in which a biosimilar drug is available here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -John Brassil

Dear Deputy Brassil,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 48231/19), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Over 2,400 Irish patients have been prescribed the best-value biologic (BVB) medicine for adalimumab and etanercept since June 2019. Further measures are planned to be put in place for 2020. However, the HSE intends to focus on adalimumab and etanercept in the initial phase of BVB initiation and switching and will look to expand the programme to further therapeutic areas once the potential savings arising from this initiative are realised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieran Healy', written over a horizontal line.

Kieran Healy
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service