



Alan Dillon, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

14th December, 2020

PQ: 40540/20

To ask the Minister for Health the timeline for a decision on the approval of duodopa by the HSE; if any of the €50 million allocation for the approval of new medicines is being used for this consideration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Alan Dillon

Dear Deputy Dillon,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 40540/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE under the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013 has statutory responsibility for decisions around the reimbursement of new medicines.

The HSE is legally required to consider a range of criteria which include unmet need, clinical evidence, economic evidence, budget impact and the resources available to it when making reimbursement decisions.

Duodopa® is licensed for the treatment of advanced levodopa-responsive Parkinson's disease with severe motor fluctuations and hyperkinesia or dyskinesia when available combinations of Parkinson medicinal products have not given satisfactory results.

Reimbursement of Duodopa® was formally considered by the HSE Drugs Group over two meetings in December 2019 and February 2020.

The HSE Drugs Group is an advisory committee and is not the decision making body of the HSE.

The HSE was unable in 2020 on the basis of the demands it was faced with (across all services) to fund an extension of Duodopa reimbursement during 2020.

The HSE provided a detailed horizon scan of new medicines demands for 2021 as part of the budgetary process. The HSE secured €50m in the October 2020 budget to support the introduction of new medicines to the reimbursement lists or to extend the use of existing medicines during 2021.

This significant new investment will assist the HSE in addressing the demands for a wide range of new medicines during 2021 including Duodopa.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service

The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie