



Primary Care Reimbursement Service
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 XKF3
Tel: 01- 8647100

Anne Rabbitte, T.D.
Minister of State Department of Children, Disability, Equality and Integration,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

7th July, 2020

PQ: 12044/20

To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on medicines by the State; the amount or percentage that related to generics and to biosimilars, respectively; his plans to increase the use of generics and biosimilars; the saving achieved in biosimilars and generics in each of the past five years in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Anne Rabbitte

Dear Minister Rabbitte,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 12044/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In 2010, the penetration rate of generic medicines was less than 40% in the off-patent market. Figures up to year end 2019, show that the current generic penetration rate is 73% of volume in the off-patent market.

In early 2019, biosimilar usage was 1.42% which increased to 16.68% by December 2019. The percentage of Biosimilar drugs reimbursed to High Tech Suppliers in May 2020 by PCRS under the Hi-Tech Arrangements was 24.98%.

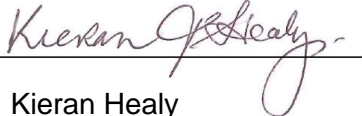
NSP 2020 budget includes a target of €50m in biosimilar savings for 2020.

There would be additional substantial savings in the Hospitals through Biosimilar usage. Many of the Biosimilars approved for reimbursement have been approved with commercially confidential price discounts in place. Therefore, resulting efficiencies would be greater than those calculated using list prices.

A substantial programme of Biosimilar reform is ongoing supported by Clinical Leadership. 7,800 patients have been switched to Biosimilar Etanercept or Adalimumab since mid-2019. The above figures only encompass those efficiencies delivered through Primary Care Reimbursement Service.

Financial data relating to expenditure associated with Generic and Biosimilar medicines usage in the period 2015 to 2019 is enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kieran Healy", written over a horizontal line.

Kieran Healy
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service

Encl: