



Emer Higgins, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

23rd June, 2020

PQ: 9951/20

To ask the Minister for Health the penetration rate of generic medicines in 2010 and in the most recent year for which figures are available; the penetration rate of biosimilar medicines; the amount which would be saved if the penetration rate of biosimilar medicines matched that of generic medicines; his plans to increase the penetration rate of biosimilar medicines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Emer Higgins

Dear Deputy Higgins,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 9951/20), 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.

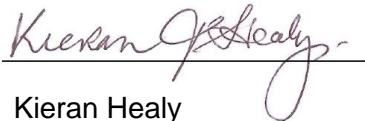
In early 2019, biosimilar usage was 1.42% which increased to 16.68% by December 2019. The percentage of Biosimilar drugs reimbursed to High Tech Suppliers in May 2020 by PCRS under the Hi-Tech Arrangements was 24.98%.

The generic penetration rate of 73% would result in approx. 15,000 individuals in the community being prescribed a Biosimilar medicine. The National Service Plan (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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kieran Healy", written over a horizontal line.

Kieran Healy
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service