Rannán na nOspidéil Ghéarmhíochaine
Aonad 1A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, An Bóthar Míleata
Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

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Deputy Bernard Durkan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

16th April 2020

PQ 3806/20* *To ask the Minister for Health if provision has been made by the HSE to expand the availability of anti IL-5 therapies for severe asthma in 2020; the number of patients that were able to access same in 2019; the number expected to be able to access same in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Durkan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:
Improving outcomes for patients with Severe Refractory Eosinophilic Asthma remains a priority for the HSE. The National Clinical Programme for Respiratory Medicine has collaborated with the Acute Hospitals Drug Management Programme to develop protocols for anti-IL5 therapies. The protocols include the clinical criteria to ensure patients are prioritised on the basis of clinical need and the potential for treatment benefit.

Since August 2018, funding has been approved for a total of 187 patients to access anti-IL5 therapy with 103 of these being approved in 2019. Additional resources are being made available for further provision of anti-IL5 therapy for Severe Refractory Eosinophilic Asthma in 2020. To date, funding has been approved for a further 31 patients in 2020. The total number approved in 2020 will be dependent on the number of patients identified as likely to benefit from anti-IL5 therapy, as per the aforementioned anti-IL5 protocols, and available resource.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Byrne
Assistant National Director
Acute Operations