



Matt Shanahan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

16th November, 2020

PQ: 34072/20

To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter (details supplied) regarding funding for medical devices; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Matt Shanahan.

Is the Minister aware that HSE is providing funding of 2 CGM systems in Ireland, one US manufactured (Dexcom G6) and the other EU manufactured (Abbott FreeStyle Libre) – one requires finger stick monitoring while the other uses data from a wearable sensor which provides continuous glucose tracking to a phone app platform thereby providing better insulin requirement data and longer term disease management – the European system has more functionality, is compatible with all phones which the other system is not, costs less yet is only being offered to under 21's – This is denying a significant patient cohort of a more versatile user friendly device at less cost to the exchequer – Would the Minister outline why no formal pricing review has taken place and why the better system is not being offered to all patients and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shanahan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 34072/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The FreeStyle Libre device which is currently marketed in Ireland is a Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) device, not a Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) device. CGM devices such as Dexcom go through a separate HSE National Insulin Pump tender process and are provided locally via Aids and Appliances. The ancillaries associated with these products are available through the GMS Reimbursement List.

Whilst it was anticipated that the review of FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring System (FGM) would be finalised at the end of Q1 2020, the public health emergency

that has occurred in the meantime has resulted in members of the Health Technology Assessment Group (HTAG), whose primary roles are in Public Health Medicine, being redirected fully to public health emergency duties.

Given the current situation, the HSE are not in a position to provide an exact date for completion of the HTAG review and publication of the advice note. The HSE needs to consider this information before a decision regarding further funding / reimbursement of FreeStyle Libre sensors is made.

Consultant Endocrinologists may apply to the HSE, on behalf of specific patients, for reimbursement support of FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) sensors. This includes those persons with Long Term Illness (LTI) eligibility. The application process is undertaken by means of a dedicated online portal, which has been operational since 3rd April 2018. In line with the recommendations outlined of the Health Technology Assessment Group, access to this product was made available to children and young adults (4 -21 years). However, the application process does cater for the Consultant to make an application in very exceptional circumstances for a type 1 diabetic patient outside of this group.

Furthermore, no dedicated funding has been provided in the National Service Plan for reimbursement of technologies such as FreeStyle Libre.

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