



Bernard J. Durkan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

23rd November, 2020

PQ: 34888 /20

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the medication melatonin is no longer covered by the medical card scheme; if this decision can be reviewed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Bernard J. Durkan

Dear Deputy Durkan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 34888 /20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Melatonin has never been available through the formal GMS Reimbursement List for reimbursement under GMS and Community Drug Schemes. Products that are licensed will undergo a pricing and reimbursement approval process by the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) on receipt of an application by the HSE from the manufacturer.

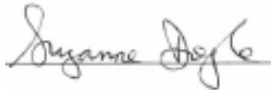
Melatonin (Circadin) underwent a review in 2008 and reimbursement was not recommended by the NCPE as there is currently insufficient evidence to support the reimbursement of this product under the Community Drugs Schemes (available at <http://www.ncpe.ie/drugs/melatonin-circadin/>).

Exceptional arrangements are considered under Section 23 of the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013 - Supply of items not on Reimbursement List. The HSE must be satisfied that:

- (a) The patient requires that item for clinical reasons, and
- (b) There is no listed item which is a suitable alternative for that item in so far as that patient is concerned.

All applications for melatonin under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements are reviewed on an individual patient basis under Section 23. An individual reimbursement form is required to be completed and submitted by the prescribing consultant in all cases.

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