



Danny Healy-Rae, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

1st December, 2020

PQ: 36426/20

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the FreeStyle Libre device for persons with type 1 diabetes is only provided free of charge to those aged under 21 years of age; if the device will be offered to all free of charge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Danny Healy-Rae.

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 36426/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

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. However, internal analysis does not indicate that the projected savings envisaged in reduction of strip usage is materialising.

Consultant Endocrinologists or members of their teams e.g. Diabetes Nurse Specialists may apply to the HSE, on behalf of specific patients, for reimbursement support of FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) sensors through the online portal. The application process does cater for the clinician to make an application in very exceptional circumstances for a type 1 diabetic patient outside of the children and young adults (4-21 years) group.

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