



Thomas Pringle, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

8th December, 2020

PQ: 38580/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number and list of treatments being assessed by HSE drugs group at its next meeting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Thomas Pringle

Dear Deputy Pringle,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 38580/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE Drugs Group is a national committee and it is tasked with providing a recommendation to the HSE Executive Management Team (EMT) in relation to the pricing and reimbursement of new medicines. The Drugs Group considers the relevant criteria in the Health (Pricing and Reimbursement of Medical Goods) Act 2013 when making its recommendation(s).

The next meeting of the Drugs Group is scheduled for the 8th December 2020. This will be the 10th meeting of the group in 2020.

The HSE Drugs Group is an advisory body and provides advice to the HSE Executive Management Team. It is not a decision making body of the HSE. The Drugs Group considers the health technology assessment (HTA), the outputs from commercial negotiation, as well as a range of other information in advance of providing its advices to the EMT.

The HSE EMT are the decision makers in relation to pricing and reimbursement of new medicines (with budget impacts). Legally, the EMT are required to consider all the criteria under the Health (Pricing and Reimbursement of Medical Goods) Act 2013.

The new medicines (or new use of an existing medicine) are included on the Drugs Group meeting agendas when all necessary preparatory steps, including commercial negotiations, are complete.

The agenda for each Drugs Group is finalised by the Drugs Group Secretariat in the week preceding the meeting. The Secretariat function is provided by the HSE Corporate Pharmaceutical Unit. Items are tabled in the order of completion of all necessary steps by the applicant companies.

In the event that quorum is confirmed, the December 2020 meeting agenda includes six items under 'Medicines for Consideration'. It may not be possible to cover all six items (two are the same drug) in the time available for the meeting. All applicant companies have been informed of the inclusion of their pricing and reimbursement applications on the agenda.

The Minutes of the Drugs Group are published on the HSE website at: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cpu/drugs-group-minutes/>

Details in relation to completed assessments by the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics are published at: <http://www.ncpe.ie/>

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