



Primary Care Reimbursement Service  
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Jackie Cahill, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

13<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

PQ: 28003/20

**To ask the Minister for Health the quantity of MSUD covered under the medical card for persons that have been diagnosed with maple syrup disorder (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jackie Cahill**

*Individuals with MSUV cannot break down protein naturally, and have to live off a very low protein diet, but if their protein levels get too high, they must take MSUD to reduce protein levels, as to not do this could risk serious brain damage for those living with this illness, making MSUV absolutely necessary for people's health. The PCRF has recently stated that 3 boxes are covered under the medical card, while the HSE has stated 5 boxes are covered. One box costs upwards of €500. Could the Minister clarify this issue?*

Dear Deputy Cahill,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 28003/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

A review of all reimbursable clinical nutritional products was undertaken recently by the Senior Dietitian at PCERS. A threshold has been applied for appropriate clinical use in consultation with dietetic colleagues in the various clinical specialties such as metabolic disorders and paediatrics. For the most part this threshold is more than adequate, with minimum impact on pharmacy dispensing practices and patient inconvenience. However, a small number of exceptional outliers have emerged which have been dealt with on a case by case basis.

Where a hospital prescription is provided which substantiates the exceptional quantity, and the exceptional nature of the requirements have been outlined as appropriate, reimbursement support is provided.

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](mailto:Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie)**