



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

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

PQ: 29270/20

**To ask the Minister for Health his plans to add Cariban to the approved drug list under the drug payment scheme; and the medicines available under the drug payment scheme to treat hyperemesis gravidarum - Thomas Gould.**

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 29270/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Cariban (doxylamine / pyridoxine) is an unlicensed product that is not reimbursable under GMS and Community Drug Schemes. Only licensed products are added to the formal GMS Reimbursement List in line with the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013.

Xonvea (doxylamine / pyridoxine) is the licensed product with the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) in Ireland indicated for the treatment of nausea and vomiting of pregnancy in women who do not respond to conservative management. Xonvea is currently undergoing formal pricing and reimbursement assessment <http://www.ncpe.ie/drugs/doxylamine-pyridoxine-xonvea/>.

Under the legislation there are formal processes which govern applications for the pricing and reimbursement of medicines. The HSE does not reimburse medicines or agree reimbursement terms in advance of the completion of the required processes. The HSE does not intend to reimburse Cariban under Community Drug Schemes or Discretionary Hardship Arrangements. As there is a licensed product now available in Ireland going through the formal process, the clinical evidence for this product will be examined as part of the national pricing and reimbursement assessment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle'.

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)**