



Primary Care Reimbursement Service  
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 XKF3  
Tel: 01- 8647100

Fergus O'Dowd, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2020

PQ: 29643/20

**To ask the Minister for Health if a drug (details supplied) is in short supply; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Fergus O'Dowd.**

*Eltroxin or Levothyroxine. Constituents are being told they can only get 1 month worth of supply where they usually get 6/12month supplies. Considering the persons that need the medication are considered higher risk than the general population, they are having to now make additional trips to pharmacies during a pandemic*

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 29643/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Further communication in this regard was issued in July 2020 to community pharmacies (pharmacy circular 21/20). While it is important to remain cognisant of the requirements of the Community Drugs Schemes (one month's supply per calendar month); where a patient is not using the GMS / Community Drugs Schemes for their medicine needs, more than one month can be supplied where:

- a) No patient safety issues or misuse issues arise,
- b) Stock concerns in respect of the particular products do not arise.

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