Rannán na nOspidéil Ghéarmhíochaine
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Deputy Kathleen Funchion TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

18th September 2020

PQ 22144/20 **To ask the Minister for Health the criteria for a patient to be provided with the xolair injection.*

Dear Deputy Funchion.

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

Xolair® (omalizumab) for the management of severe allergic asthma has been considered under the formal HSE assessment process for reimbursement approval. As part of the assessment process, in August 2014, Novartis Ireland Ltd submitted a clinical and economic dossier on the cost-effectiveness of Xolair® (omalizumab) for the treatment of severe allergic asthma to the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE).

The NCPE, on behalf of the HSE, uses a decision framework to systematically assess whether a technology is cost-effective. This includes the clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness, and health related quality of life benefits, which a new treatment may provide. Following NCPE assessment of the company submission, Xolair® (omalizumab) was not considered cost-effective for the treatment of severe allergic asthma and therefore not recommended for reimbursement. The HSE do not define criteria for access to medicines not approved for reimbursement.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Byrne,
Assistant National Director,
Acute Operations