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21st September 2020

Deputy Colm Burke,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 22868/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the medicines submitted to HSE leadership or executive management team for reimbursement approval; the date of each meeting; the outcome of each meeting from 1 January 2019 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Burke,

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

The HSE is committed to providing access to as many medicines as possible in as timely a fashion as possible using the resources available to it. In doing so, the HSE robustly assesses applications to ensure available resources can be allocated to deliver the best value in relation to each medicine and ultimately more medicines to Irish citizens. HSE decisions on which medicines are reimbursed are made on objective, scientific and economic grounds.

The HSE considers a pricing application for indicated uses in line with the criteria set out under the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013. The HSE considers the following criteria prior to making any decision on funding / reimbursement:

a) The health needs of the public,

b) The cost-effectiveness of meeting health needs by supplying the item concerned rather than providing other health services,

c) The availability and suitability of items for supply or reimbursement,

d) The proposed costs, benefits, and risks of the item or listed item relative to therapeutically similar items or listed items provided in other health service settings and the level of certainty in relation to the evidence of those costs, benefits and risks,

e) The potential or actual budget impact of the item or listed item,

f) The clinical need for the item or listed item,

g) The appropriate level of clinical supervision required in relation to the item to ensure patient safety,

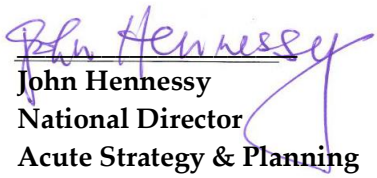
h) The efficacy (performance in trial), effectiveness (performance in real situations) and added therapeutic benefit against existing standards of treatment (how much better it treats a condition than existing therapies) and

i) The resources available to the HSE

The HSE Drugs Group is the national committee in place to make recommendations on the pricing and reimbursement of medicines. As per your request, please find attached a list of decisions made by the HSE Executive Management Team at its meetings relating to drugs reimbursement in 2019 and to date in 2020. Note that drug applications where deliberations are still ongoing relate mainly to affordability issues due to price.

I trust the above and attached addresses your query but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further details.

Yours sincerely,



John Hennessy
National Director
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