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

7th May, 2021

PQ: 19797/21

To ask the Minister for Health the medicines and indications added to the reimbursement list in 2020 and to date in 2021; when they were added during the period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -John Lahart

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 19797/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health 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 (provided) to it. In doing so, the HSE robustly assesses applications to ensure available resources can be stretched as far as possible and to deliver the best value in relation to each medicine and ultimately more medicines to Irish citizens and patients.

There are formal processes which govern the pricing and reimbursement of medicines and the application process for new medicines to be funded and / or reimbursed.

HSE decisions on which medicines are reimbursed by the taxpayer 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:

(1) The health needs of the public,
(2) The cost-effectiveness of meeting health needs by supplying the item concerned rather than providing other health services,
(3) The availability and suitability of items for supply or reimbursement,
(4) 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,
(5) The potential or actual budget impact of the item or listed item,
(6) The clinical need for the item or listed item,
(7) The appropriate level of clinical supervision required in relation to the item to ensure patient safety,
(8) 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
(9) The resources available to the HSE

Information on reimbursement of medicines included under the Community Drug Schemes and under High Tech Drug Arrangements is available from the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) website. The reimbursement list does not detail the licensed or approved indication for each medicine included. An update on the reimbursement list is published towards the end of each month and will include relevant changes including new additions for reimbursement under the schemes. For a new addition (i.e. approval) to be included on this update the applicant must have liaised with PCRS to confirm the launch of the product. The update and reimbursement list is accessible on the PCRS website:
https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/pcrs/online-services/
https://www.sspcrs.ie/libr/html/monthlyproductupdate.pdf

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service