



David Cullinane, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

6th May, 2021

PQ: 20256/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons currently approved for State-funded and reimbursed for FreeStyle Liibre and dexcom; the cost of each; the average cost per person for each; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 20256/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) sensors were made available on an administrative basis to people with Type 1 Diabetes in line with a recommendation accepted by the HSE from the Health Technology Advisory Group from 1st April 2018. Consultant Endocrinologists may apply to the HSE, on behalf of specific patients, for reimbursement support of FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) sensors. The application process is undertaken by means of a dedicated online portal, which has been operational since 3rd April 2018. In line with the recommendations outlined of the Health Technology Assessment Group, access to this product was made available to children and young adults (4 -21 years). However, the application process does cater for the Consultant to make an application in very exceptional circumstances for a type 1 diabetic patient outside of this group.

From 3rd April 2018 to 31st December 2020 inclusive:

- The total number of applications for FreeStyle Libre FGM sensors made through the online system is 5,311.
- The total number of approved applications for FreeStyle Libre FGM sensors is 4,337.

Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) devices go through a completely separate funding mechanism locally, not through PCRS. There is a National Tender in place through Aids and Appliances for CGM devices and the hospital must apply for funding for those patients where CGM is warranted. On the basis of this, PCRS cover the ancillary sensor device which is a consumable product to those who are in receipt of CGMs. PCRS do not reimburse equipment.

The number of persons who have been reimbursed for Dexcom CGM sensors in 2020 is 2,978.

The number of persons currently reimbursed for FreeStyle Libre and Dexcom sensors under Community Drug Schemes; the cost of each and the average cost per person for each is as follows:

January – December 2020

Description	No. of Unique Patients	Total Cost	Average cost per Person
Freestyle Libre	3,523	€3,860,486.53	€1,095.80
Dexcom	2,978	€5,691,098.51	€1,911.05

January – February 2021

Description	No. of Unique Patients	Total Cost	Average cost per Person
Freestyle Libre	3,021	€663,022.70	€219.47
Dexcom	3,059	€1,496,961.77	€489.36

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service