



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil
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15th December, 2021

Deputy Alan Farrell, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 59875/21

To ask the Minister for Health the directive the HSE gives its medical consultants for prescribing insulin pumps for children diagnosed with diabetes type 1; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Children on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The decision to prescribe an insulin pump is made based on clinical needs of the child with diabetes. Initiating insulin pump therapy safely requires that the child and family acquire complex skills (carbohydrate counting, technical pump skills and insulin dose titration skills). This, in turn, requires access to a trained multidisciplinary team (MDT), as starting insulin pump therapy requires intensive skills training and support.

While insulin pump therapy is usually the best option for a child with diabetes, this is not univerrally the case and some children and families choose not to use insulin pumps.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan
General Manager