



Marian Harkin, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

3rd February, 2021

PQ: 5129/21

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to remove the age restriction of 21 years of age on access to FreeStyle Libre for diabetes patients; the rationale for this age restriction; if this application for blood glucose monitoring will be covered under the HSE reimbursement scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Marian Harkin

Dear Deputy Harkin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 5129/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Whilst it was anticipated that the review of FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring System (FGM) would be finalised at the end of Q1 2020, the public health emergency that has occurred in the meantime has resulted in members of the Health Technology Assessment Group (HTAG), whose primary roles are in Public Health Medicine, being redirected fully to public health emergency duties. Therefore, the review that was planned to be completed by HTAG last year did not take place.

Given the current situation, the HSE are not in a position to provide an exact date for completion of the HTAG review and publication of the advice note. The HSE needs to consider this information before a decision regarding further funding / reimbursement of FreeStyle Libre sensors is made.

Consultant Endocrinologists or members of their teams e.g. Diabetes Nurse Specialists may apply to the HSE, on behalf of specific patients, for reimbursement support of FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) sensors through the online portal. The application process does cater for the clinician to make an application in very exceptional circumstances for a type 1 diabetic patient outside of the children and young adults (4-21 years) group.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle'.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service

