



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

10th March, 2021

PQ: 9563/21

To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the reimbursement of FreeStyle Libre continuous glucose monitoring system for persons with type 1 diabetes; if he has considered extending the availability to all persons over 21 years of age with type 1 diabetes; 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 9563/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

FreeStyle Libre is not a Continuous Glucose Monitoring system, FreeStyle Libre is a flash glucose monitoring (FGM) system.

FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring 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.

In the absence of dedicated funding, it was hoped that significant reduction in strip usage of approved patients would assist in creating economic headroom to expand access further, but in any retrospective analysis conducted of reimbursement records to date, such efficiencies have not materialised.

Yours sincerely,

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

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service