



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

10th March, 2021

PQ: 9564/21

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full-year cost of extending the reimbursement scheme for the FreeStyle Libre continuous glucose monitoring system to all type 1 diabetics; 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 9564/21), 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.

As per HTAG advice note (attached), the review undertaken in 2017 indicated that the average additional cost per patient per year was estimated to be €980. People with type 1 diabetes account for approximately 20,000 of the total diabetes population in Ireland i.e. 10-15% of the population of people living with diabetes. According to Diabetes Ireland, the total number of people living with Diabetes in Ireland is estimated to be 225,840.

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. Reimbursement support has been provided to 4,400 patients up until February 2021. It is estimated, therefore, that to extend to the remainder of people with Type 1 Diabetes would cost in the order of €15m.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service

