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9th April 2021

Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 14200/21

To ask the Minister for Health the cost of treating hypertension and high blood pressure; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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 examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

High blood pressure usually has no obvious symptoms and many people have it without knowing. The only way to know if you have high blood pressure (medically known as hypertension) is to have your blood pressure measured. If left untreated, high blood pressure increases risk of a heart attack, stroke, vascular disease and kidney failure. Risk of having high blood pressure increases with age.

Patients with hypertension can take effective steps to lower blood pressure with changes to lifestyle and by taking medication. Choice of treatment will depend on blood pressure level and risk of developing a cardiovascular disease, such as a heart attack or stroke. There is a wide range of blood pressure lowering medicines to choose from. Patients with hypertension may need to take more than one type of medication because a combination of drugs is sometimes needed to successfully treat high blood pressure.

I have linked with HSE Primary Care Eligibility and Reimbursement Service (PCERS), who have provided the following cost of treating hypertension/high blood pressure. Figures have been sourced from analysis of costs in the Community Health Schemes.

The information provided in the table below is based on claim data which has been received by the Primary Care Eligibility and Reimbursement Service (PCERS) from Community Pharmacists and includes items reimbursed by PCERS only.

Whilst the report reflects the reimbursement cost presented against pharmacy claims for those with General Medical Service (GMS) Scheme, Drug Payment Scheme (DPS) and Long Term Illness Scheme eligibility, expenditure for patients receiving products privately or sub-threshold DPS cannot be determined by PCERS.

Scheme	GMS (General Medical Service)	DPS (Drug Payment Scheme)	LTI (Long Term Illness)
Total Provisional Cost 2020	€80,026,081	€13,503,404	€20,704,089

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