



Gino Kenny, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

30<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

PQ: 14374/21

**To ask the Minister for Health the reason for reimbursing the cost of the freestyle libre glucose monitoring system for children and young persons with type 1 diabetes while excluding adults; his views on whether while it is welcomed that children and young persons will have access to this important tool in monitoring glucose levels given the significant cost of €120 per month for the monitor is excessive especially for those on low income; if he will consider reimbursing the cost of the glucose monitor for all those with type 1 diabetes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Gino Kenny**

Dear Deputy Kenny,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 14374/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Whilst it was anticipated that the review of FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring System 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.

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 / Diabetes Nurse Specialists may apply to the HSE, on behalf of specific patients, for reimbursement support of FreeStyle Libre Flash

Glucose Monitoring (FGM) sensors. This includes those persons with Long Term Illness (LTI) eligibility. 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.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service

**The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: [Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie](mailto:Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie)**