



Primary Care Reimbursement Service
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John Lahart, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

5th May, 2021

PQ: /21

To ask the Minister for Health his plans for the introduction of the FreeStyle Libre glucose monitoring system for persons over 21 years of age with type 1 diabetes on the long-term illness scheme. -John Lahart

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 22657/21), 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 eligibility under Community Drug Schemes (e.g. medical card holders, those with Long Term Illness 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,

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

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service