



Jackie Cahill, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

22nd July 2021

PQ: 23395/21

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to provide some of the anticipated 2021 cost savings from the recent HSE medicines management programme preferred blood glucose strips for adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes evaluation to fund the provision of the FreeStyle Libre flash glucose monitoring system to persons with diabetes over 21 years of age based on clinical need; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cahill,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 23395/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The PCRS has been approached by the Diabetes Clinical Programme to progress the allocation of some of the efficiencies arising from the MMP preferred blood glucose strips for funding further priority groups with type 1 Diabetes. Such a consideration must be balanced with all of the exigencies placed on the PCRS to remain within their budget allocation for 2021 and remains under deliberation.

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', written in a cursive style.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service