



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

7th of May, 2021

PQ: 23409/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of meetings that have been held in 2020 and 2021 between the manufacturers of the FreeStyle Libre flash glucose monitoring system and the HSE primary care reimbursement service in relation to making the technology available to persons with diabetes over 21 years of age based on clinical need; the outcomes of these meetings; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Crowe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 23409/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Since 2020, 3 meetings have been held with Abbott in relation to FreeStyle Libre. 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 began in 2020 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. The HSE informed the company that the HTAG review and publication of the advice note did not progress and that this information needs to be considered before a decision regarding further funding / reimbursement of FreeStyle Libre sensors is made. It was anticipated that efficiencies in the use of blood glucose testing strips would be off-set against the cost of FreeStyle Libre sensors. However, internal analysis does not indicate that the projected savings envisaged in reduction of strip usage is materialising.

In their discussions with the HSE, Abbott have provided updates to the clinical trial data and ongoing supporting evidence for the FreeStyle Libre system which will be used as part of any assessment by the HSE in the future.

The HSE are seeking to progress a health technology assessment of FreeStyle Libre and have informed the company of this intention. Due to the unavailability of the HTAG for the foreseeable future, the HSE is exploring the options available to progress a health technology assessment to include the updated information provided by the company. In the absence of anticipated efficiencies in reduced strip usage, the cost-effectiveness of the technology needs to be determined before the HSE can expand reimbursement support to all type I diabetics under Community Drug Schemes

Yours sincerely,

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

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service