



Sean Fleming, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

28th October 2021

PQ: 52247/21

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the FreeStyle Libre sensor is not available for persons with diabetes who have a long-term illness card given many persons have to use this as a finger blood prick test which is not suitable for all persons; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Sean Fleming

Dear Deputy Fleming,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 52247/21), 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 progress the HTAG review and publication of the advice note. The HSE has now commissioned a full Health Technology Assessment to be conducted by the NCPE in collaboration with the Medicines Management Programme. This process has commenced as evidenced by the NCPE call for patient group submissions in recent weeks. If a positive recommendation arises on completion of the Health Technology Assessment in due course, the PCRS will progress the funding of the device as part of the preparations for the National Service Plan.

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 that reads "Suzanne Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service