



Rannán na nOspidéal Ghéarmhíochaine  
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Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

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Deputy Colm Burke  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

26th November 2021

**PQ 56347/21** \* *To ask the Minister for Health if a decision has been made by the HSE to provide expanded access of anti-IL-5 therapies for severe asthma; if there is a limit in place on the number of patients who will be able to access same; the number of patients expected to be able to access same in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy O'Brien,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

**Response:**

Improving outcomes for patients with Severe Refractory Eosinophilic Asthma remains a priority for the HSE. Since 2018 funding has been approved for a total of 333 patients to access anti-IL5 therapy. The National Clinical Programme for Asthma has worked with the Acute Hospitals Drug Management Programme to develop protocols for anti-IL5 therapies. The protocols include clinical criteria to ensure patients are prioritised on the basis of clinical need and the potential for treatment benefit. Additional resource is being made available for the provision of anti-IL5 therapy for the treatment of Severe Refractory Eosinophilic Asthma in those acute hospitals designated as severe asthma centres. In 2021 this amounted to the approval of 93 additional patients. This resource provision will ensure patient access to anti-IL5 therapy will continue in 2022.

Yours sincerely,

**Helen Byrne**  
Assistant National Director  
Acute Operations