



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

3rd November 2021

PQ: 50464/21

To ask the Minister for Health the status of the issuing of free access to the FreeStyle Libre device for all adult diabetics; his plans to remove the age limit for free access to this device; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jackie Cahill

Dear Deputy Cahill,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 50464/21), 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.

The NCPE are awaiting the submission of the evidence dossier from the manufacturer. As a HTA progresses, the NCPE website displays each stage as it progresses.

Consultant Endocrinologists / Diabetes Nurse Specialists continue to 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle', written over a horizontal line.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service