



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil
Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Róisín Shortall

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

19th April 2022

PQ 17885/22 Deputy Róisín Shortall - To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to media reports (details supplied) of patients' difficulties accessing Sotrovimab; the steps he is taking to address shortcomings in the treatment pathway; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

Thank you for your representation.

The Chief Clinical Officer has continuously engaged with the leads of the Hospital Groups who have reported that the established pathways for the delivery of infusion monoclonal therapeutics for those who are immunocompromised and test positive for COVID-19, are working well. Sotrovimab is currently available via this pathway.

Recent data has indicated that Sotrovimab is unlikely to be effective against the BA.2 sub-variant. This data prompted the Therapeutic Advisory Group to issue an alert communication to all prescribers the growing evidence for the reduced efficacy of Sotrovimab against the BA.2 sub-variant. This communication was issued from the CCO on the 1st of April, this was communicated to patients via updates to the HSE website and through engagement with patient advocacy groups.

Sotrovimab is still available for use and the Chief Clinical Officer has communicated to the General Practitioners the pathway for referring patients to hospital for Sotrovimab, and there is communications available on the HSE website for the public as to how access Sotrovimab. The Patient's General Practitioner can use the prioritisation framework to assist in assessing whether the patient is eligible for sotrovimab and can thus refer the patient to hospital to be considered by a consultant.

The pathway has been further enhanced by the establishment of an eReferrals system. An increasing number of hospitals are using the online platform which allows their local General Practitioners to electronically refer patients directly into the appropriate consultant in the hospital.



I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Hayden', written in a cursive style.

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO