



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

13th April 2022

PQ 19143/22 - Deputy Róisín Shortall- To ask the Minister for Health if the Covid-19 therapeutics implementation group has met; the reason this group was not set-up earlier; if patients are represented on this group; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

Thank you for your representation.

The HSE COVID-19 Therapeutics Implementation Preparedness Working Group (hereafter referred to as the Working Group) was established in December 2021 when novel COVID-19 therapeutics were becoming available across Europe. The purpose of the working group is to develop preparedness plans for the operational roll-out and implementation of novel COVID-19 therapeutics and the members of the group provide clinical and operational advice, recommendations, programme interdependency planning and implementation support to the Chief Clinical Officer (CCO) on the roll out of Therapeutic Medicines for COVID-19 nationally.

The working group is chaired by the Chief Clinical Officer, Dr Colm Henry and meet on a weekly basis. The group have met a total of 14 times to date. The group has broad representation from stakeholders required in the operational roll-out and implementation of novel therapeutics, including, HSE finance, procurement, communications, operations and IT divisions. There is also representation from a number of clinicians on the working group.

We welcome patient representatives on the working group and have engaged with IPPOSI in to seek nominees to join this group. There are two patient representatives on the Therapeutics Advisory Group which reports into the working group. This ensures that patient voices are represented at meetings.

The HSE also has a regular engagement forum with patient advocacy groups to ensure that information is being shared in relation to access to COVID 19 Therapeutics.

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