



Patricia Ryan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

3rd May 2022

PQ: 20769/22

To ask the Minister for Health if all medically prescribed medications and supplements used in the treatment of Lyme disease and co-infections will be covered by the GMS and drug payment scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Patricia Ryan

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 20769/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

To be included on the GMS Reimbursement List a product must have a marketing authorisation. Individual requirements at a patient specific level for items which are not on the Reimbursement List can be considered on an individual patient basis but it would be important to note that in support of any such application under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements, published clinical evidence to support the use of the product in the treatment of the patient's condition would be required. The application needs to be completed by the hospital prescriber. Herbal products/ food supplements which are not medicinal products are not approvable under these arrangements. Under the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013, food supplements do not satisfy Schedule 3 – "Criteria Applicable to Items and Listed Items for Purposes of Executive Making Relevant Decision Under Section 18.

PCRS sought the views of the HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP) for items prescribed in respect of treatments for Lymes Disease / babesia. Their recommendation was that the products should not be approved for reimbursement support as there was little if any clinical evidence to support their use.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle'.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service