



Jennifer Whitmore, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

14th December 2022

PQ: 60639/22

To ask the Minister for Health if consultant obstetricians were consulted before the decision to make them the initial prescribers for cariban was made; if any concerns raised as to the impact that this decision would have on waiting lists to see consultant obstetricians; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jennifer Whitmore

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 60639/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

As part of Budget 2023, the Minister announced €32.2 million in funding for Women's Health Initiatives in 2023, to include dedicated funding for Cariban® (doxylamine/pyridoxine). Cariban® is an Exempt Medicinal Product i.e. not licensed with the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) in Ireland. Following the recommendations of the HSE Medicines Management Programme, this product will be made available on an individual patient basis for those patients who meet the criteria under Community Drug Schemes (GMS, DPS) from January 2023 where Consultant Obstetrician initiated.

Under Community Drug Schemes, Exempt Medicinal Products must be Consultant initiated. However, whilst the original prescriber is a Consultant and specialist in the relevant field, the HSE will accept a GP prescription further to the initial hospital prescription for approved patients.

Yours sincerely,

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

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service