



Darren O'Rourke, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

PQ: 9990/22

**To ask the Minister for Health if any progress has been made rolling out continuous glucose monitors or flash glucose monitors to persons living with type 1 diabetes recognising the better blood glucose control they offer and potential to reduce long term complications as a result; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Darren O'Rourke**

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 9990/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In February 2021, the HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP) identified preferred blood glucose test strips (BGTS) with associated meters for adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus to deliver cost savings in this area. This initiative was supported by the Diabetes Programme. In the preparation of the National Service Plan, the HSE considered all of the service priorities to be delivered against all of the resources made available to it. Additional funding for extension of Freestyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) system to other cohorts was not provided in the National Service Plan 2022.

Consultant Endocrinologists / Diabetes Nurse Specialists may apply to the HSE, on behalf of specific patients, for reimbursement support of FreeStyle Libre 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.

Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) devices go through a completely separate funding mechanism locally, not through PCRS. There is a National Tender in place through Aids and

Appliances for CGM devices and the hospital must apply for funding for those patients where CGM is warranted. On the basis of this, PCRS cover the ancillary sensor device which is a consumable product to those who are in receipt of CGMs. PCRS do not reimburse equipment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle', written over a horizontal line.

Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service