



Mattie McGrath, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

26th July 2022

PQ: 37306/22

**To ask the Minister for Health his plans to provide the coaguchek meters and self-test strips free of charge to patients who require them to allow for self-testing of their international normalised ratio; the number of patients nationwide attending regular acute or general practitioner appointments for regular blood testing; the estimated cost to the State of providing regular monitoring of patients using warfarin; the estimated savings to be made from allowing patients self-test; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -
Mattie McGrath**

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 37306/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

INR self-testing strips such as CoaguChek® are not reimbursable under GMS and Community Drug Schemes. Whilst a range of diagnostics are available on the Reimbursement List for use in Diabetes, a change in HSE policy would be required to expand this to other therapeutic areas such as INR testing ancillaries.

Equipment such as machines are not reimbursed by the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) under Community Drug Schemes.

On very rare occasions, CoaguChek® strips were approved in the most exceptional circumstances under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements where it is clear that there is no other option for the patient i.e. the person is bed bound or cannot travel a great distance to the INR clinic.

PCRS does not hold data in relation to those attending regular acute or GP appointments for regular blood testing.

A value assessment of self-testing INR devices would be required to be undertaken to determine their clinical effectiveness and the budget impact of supplying them in Primary Care.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service