



Colm Burke, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

29<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

PQ: 30337/22

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of new patients with severe asthma that the HSE expects to treat with anti-IL-5 therapies for 2022; if there is a limit in place on the number of eligible patients accessing same for 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.-Colm Burke**

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 30337/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Improving outcomes for patients with Severe Refractory Eosinophilic Asthma remains a priority for the HSE. Since 2018 funding has been approved for a total of 367 patients to access anti-IL5 therapy. The National Clinical Programme for Asthma has worked with the Acute Hospitals Drug Management Programme to develop protocols for anti-IL5 therapies. The protocols include clinical criteria to help ensure patients are prioritised on the basis of clinical need and the potential for treatment benefit. Additional resource is being made available for the provision of anti-IL5 therapy for the treatment of Severe Refractory Eosinophilic Asthma in those acute hospitals designated as severe asthma centers. In 2021 this amounted to the approval of 93 additional patients with a further 115 new patients budgeted for in 2022. This resource provision will ensure patient access to anti-IL5 therapy will continue in 2022/ 2023.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Suzanne Doyle'.

Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service