



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

30th June 2022

PQ31184/22 Deputy Róisín Shortall- To ask the Minister for Health if he intends to increase orders for antiviral and monoclonal antibody treatments in view of recent reports that the number of Covid-19 deaths per million people in Ireland is currently the highest in Europe and the seventh highest in the world; if he intends to make antivirals more widely available; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

Thank you for your representation.

There have been 4,032 doses of the monoclonal antibody Xevudy (sotrovimab) and 14,000 doses of the antiviral Paxlovid (ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir) ordered to date through a Bilateral Agreement. The Therapeutic Advisory Group (TAG) have developed clinical guidance for the currently available COVID-19 therapeutic agents and have developed a clinical framework for deployment of COVID-19 therapeutics for very high risk and high-risk populations to inform eligibility for these Covid-19 Therapeutics.

The data outlined in Europe and Worldwide doesn't show Ireland as one of the highest countries in Europe or Worldwide. The European Centre for Disease Control data for COVID deaths can be found <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/country-overviews>. Worldwide deaths can be found on the WHO website <https://covid19.who.int/>.

There are a number of resources and supports available to assist prescribers in determining eligibility and suitability for treatment. There has also been ongoing engagement with advocacy groups as part of the Covid-19 Vaccine Network to raise awareness among at-risk patients about the new COVID-19 treatments available in Ireland.

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO