



Dara Calleary, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

1st July 2022

PQ: 33351/22

To ask the Minister for Health if the epilepsy drug nifedipine will be added to the medical card scheme. -Dara Calleary

Dear Deputy Calleary,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 33351/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Nifedipine is an unlicensed medicine in Ireland. However, the product was historically licensed and reimbursed under Community Drug Schemes. The Marketing Authorisation Holders for these products discontinued them in recent years. Therefore, reimbursement support is available under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements where there is an unmet clinical need (e.g. anti-hypertensive in pregnancy and breastfeeding). Nifedipine is indicated for use to treat hypertension and angina. It is not indicated for the treatment of epilepsy. To date, the HSE have not received a pricing and reimbursement application for this drug for the treatment of epilepsy.

Yours sincerely,

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

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service