



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

9th March 2022

PQ: 11228/22

To ask the Minister for Health if the age restriction will be removed for the FreeStyle Libre flash glucose monitoring system for persons with diabetes; when he expects that the health technology assessment the HSE commissioned will be completed. -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 11228/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE requested that the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) carry out a full Health Technology Assessment (HTA) on Freestyle Libre. The company Abbott were formally notified of this on April 13th 2021. Abbott had a scoping meeting with the NCPE in July 2021 and committed to submitting their HTA Dossier for end of October 2021. However, Abbott informed the PCRS that they would not be submitting the HTA dossier on 15th November 2021 because they did not have the level of Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT) evidence that they stated was required for a full HTA process. Despite the HSE emphasising the importance of engaging with the HTA to progress, the company will not be progressing with the HTA. 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 to other cohorts was not provided in the National Service Plan 2022. In the absence of a full value assessment of the product, the HSE is not in a position to remove the age restriction. However, the online application process does cater for the Consultant to make an application in very exceptional circumstances for a type 1 diabetic patient who is over 21 years of age.

Yours sincerely,

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

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service