



Róisín Shortall, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

16th May 2022

PQ: 22425/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider ringfencing some of the anticipated 2021 cost savings from the recent HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP) Preferred Blood Glucose Strips for adults with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes evaluation to fund (details supplied) for people with diabetes over 21 years of age based on clinical need; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 22425/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In February 2021, the HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP) identified preferred blood glucose test strips (BGTS) with associated meters for adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus to deliver cost savings in this area. This initiative was supported by the Diabetes Programme. 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.

Consultant Endocrinologists / Diabetes Nurse Specialists may apply to the HSE, on behalf of specific patients, for reimbursement support of FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) sensors. This includes those persons with eligibility under Community Drug Schemes (e.g. medical card holders, those with Long Term Illness eligibility). The application process is undertaken by means of a dedicated online portal, which has been operational since 3rd April 2018. In line with the recommendations outlined of the Health Technology Assessment Group, access to this product was made available to children and young adults (4 -21 years).

However, the application process does cater for the Consultant to make an application in very exceptional circumstances for a type 1 diabetic patient outside of this group.

Yours sincerely,

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

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service