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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Paul Murphy
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
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18th May 2022

PQ22772/22- Deputy Paul Murphy- To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1827 of 26 April 2022, the HSE plans to make Paxlovid more widely available to those who require it given that the number of high-risk persons in Ireland is far greater than the 5,200 doses received in early April 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

Thank you for your representation.

The novel COVID-19 antiviral Paxlovid is available in hospitals and in the community for eligible patients. Patient eligibility is determined through a Prioritisation Framework that was developed by the COVID-19 Therapeutics Advisory Group (TAG). The framework and associated clinical guidance aims to support clinicians and other healthcare professionals in their decision making about the management and treatment of patients with COVID-19. This framework and clinical guidance are continually reviewed by the TAG in light of the transmissibility of the current variants of the COVID-19 virus.

Availability of novel therapeutics is recommended only if efficacy data is sufficient and robust enough to advise usage for defined population sub-groups where the benefits of treatment have been shown to outweigh the risk.

TAG continually review novel COVID-19 therapeutics as they become available and provide clinical advice and recommendations on the use of all existing and emerging COVID-19 therapeutic medications.

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager, Office of the CCO