



Cathal Crowe, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

18th October 2022

PQ: 51554/22

To ask the Minister for Health if his Department will fund coaguchek meters and self-test strips for patients who require long-term oral anticoagulant therapy with warfarin in order to decongest warfarin clinics at public hospitals and also make self-management easier for patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Cathal Crowe

Dear Deputy Crowe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 51554/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

INR self-testing strips such as CoaguChek® are not reimbursable under GMS and Community Drug Schemes. Whilst a range of diagnostics are available on the Reimbursement List for use in Diabetes, a change in HSE policy would be required to expand this to other therapeutic areas such as INR testing ancillaries.

Equipment such as machines are not reimbursed by the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) under Community Drug Schemes.

On very rare occasions, CoaguChek® strips were approved in the most exceptional circumstances under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements where it is clear that there is no other option for the patient i.e. the person is bed bound or cannot travel a great distance to the INR clinic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle'.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service