



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil  
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19<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

Deputy Willie O'Dea, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 52100/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the directive or clinical recommendations that the HSE gives its medical consultants for prescribing insulin pumps for adults diagnosed with type 1 diabetes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Dea,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Insulin pumps are small, computerised devices worn on the outside of the body and deliver insulin through a tube (called an infusion set) which is placed under the skin of the abdomen. An insulin pump replaces the need for frequent insulin injections by delivering insulin continuously throughout the day and night. People with diabetes still need to know how to adjust the pump and tell it how much insulin to administer at meal times. They also need to be able to make adjustments in their insulin pump settings based on changes in diet, lifestyle and other factors (including stress).

Adult type 1 diabetes mellitus National Clinical Guideline No. 17 Guidelines were published in 2018. The most recently updated guidance by NICE (2022) include recommendations on pump provision. Medical consultants are required to maintain their competence through the professional competency scheme of RCPI and for Consultant Endocrinologists this would include upskilling in Pump technology. An online portal the Glooko Academy resource has been made available to health care professionals in Ireland this year. This platform aims to develop clinician's knowledge and upskill/maintain knowledge of Diabetes technologies. Individual Diabetes Centres may have developed their own guidelines for provision of insulin pumps.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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**Anne Horgan**  
General Manager



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