



David Cullinane, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

16th September 2022

PQ: 44501/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of applications for Freestyle Libre that were submitted by individual hospitals for persons with diabetes over 21 years of age; the number that were approved; the number that were refused in each of the years 2017 to 2021, in tabular form; if there are plans to remove the age restriction on Freestyle Libre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 44501/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) sensors were made available on an administrative basis to people with Type 1 Diabetes in line with a recommendation accepted by the HSE from the Health Technology Advisory Group from 1st April 2018. Consultant Endocrinologists may apply to the HSE, on behalf of specific patients, for reimbursement support of FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) sensors. 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.

FreeStyle Libre Sensors	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
<i>No of applications received for persons 22 years of age and over</i>	589	739	543	884	2755
<i>No of applications approved for persons 22 years of age and over</i>	384	406	266	606	1662
<i>No. of applications rejected for persons 22 years of age and over</i>	205	333	277	278	1093

The above table outlines the number of applications from the years 2018-2021 (inclusive) made by a Consultant Endocrinologist or Diabetes Nurse Specialists through the online portal for those who are 22 years and over and the number of applications for these patients that were approved for reimbursement support based on the clinical information provided.

There are no plans to extend the device to all type 1 diabetics in the absence of a cost effectiveness assessment to determine if the product represents value for money.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service