



Aengus Ó Snodaigh, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

30th September 2022

PQ: 45841/22

To ask the Minister for Health if and when the new weight loss injections may be covered under the drug payment scheme card (Ozempic). -Aengus Ó Snodaigh

Dear Deputy Ó Snodaigh,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 45841/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Medicines are added to the formal Reimbursement List following detailed assessments which include assessment of the clinical evidence, the economic evidence and the budget impact of a decision to reimburse specific indications of a medicine. The Primary Care Reimbursement Service is required to reimburse in line with approved decisions of the HSE and the HSE is required to formally assess each medicines and each specific use of such medicines before reimbursing them.

Ozempic® (semaglutide) is licensed with the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) in Ireland and indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycaemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Ozempic® was approved by the HSE for addition to the Reimbursement List for the treatment of Diabetes in 2018. Diabetes is one of the Long Term Illness (LTI) conditions for which eligible LTI persons can access their medicines to treat their Diabetes free of charge.

Controls are in place within the Primary Care Reimbursement Service scheme management systems (and are put in place and updated as required) on claiming processes to ensure that only HSE approved indications are reimbursed across a range of medicines. Controls are currently in place for Ozempic® to restrict reimbursement support to the HSE approved indication of Diabetes.

Saxenda® (liraglutide) has gone through the national pricing and reimbursement process and has received a positive reimbursement recommendation for adult patients as an adjunct to a

reduced calorie diet and increased physical activity for weight management. This product will be made available through a Managed Access Programme operated by the HSE Medicines Management Programme in the coming months.

The HSE has recently received a pricing and reimbursement application for Wegovy® (Semaglutide) for the management of weight loss. The HSE does not reimburse medicines or agree reimbursement terms in advance of the completion of the required processes and considerations under the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013. Therefore, Semaglutide for the management of weight loss is not approved under any Community Drug Scheme or arrangement.

Furthermore, the Marketing Authorisation Holder has communicated that Wegovy® is licensed in Ireland for the treatment of weight management, however Wegovy® is not currently available on the Irish market.

Yours sincerely,

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

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service