



Children's Health Ireland

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann (SLÉ), Herberton, Siúlán San Séamas, Rialto, D08 HP97, Éire  
Children's Health Ireland (CHI), Herberton, St James's Walk, Rialto, D08 HP97 Ireland

Ref: PQs 7142/23 and 7629/23

24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Deputy Brendan Griffin**  
**Dáil Eireann**  
**Dublin 2**

Dear Deputy Griffin

I refer to your recent PQ's which has been forwarded to me for attention.

**PQ 7142/23: To ask the Minister for Health the latest update on the rollout of oral immunotherapy for children; the location of each facility in which the treatment is dispensed; the funding and timeline for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 7629/23: To ask the Minister for Health the planned timeline for the rollout of oral immunotherapy for children; where the treatment will be dispensed to patients; the allocations involved; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

#### **Children's Health Ireland Response:**

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) can advise that there is currently no planned timeline for the rollout of Peanut Oral Immunotherapy (OIT) for Irish children. However, the Allergy Services in CHI and Cork University Hospital have been anticipating the coming of this treatment for some-time, having been involved in 3 Multicenter Research Trials, the outcome of which was the development of Palforzia, the first licensed Peanut OIT product. We continue to be involved in further trials in Epicutaneous (through the skin) Immunotherapy.

At this time, as we understand, the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) are still reviewing a submission from the company (AIMMUNE).

There are approximately 20,000 children in Ireland with peanut allergy. Treatment with this product will not be appropriate for all of them. However, we anticipate that 40% of patients will be suitable candidates. Access to a service like this that will significantly improve quality of life should be available for all suitable patients.

Allergy services will be unable to commence any roll out of peanut OIT with current resources. Its delivery will require the development of a new Immunotherapy service with at least 2 Allergy Consultants with support of both clinical and nonclinical personnel. A business case has been developed at CHI for escalation to the HSE.



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This product is available in the UK already. Irish patients are travelling abroad for treatment. This is a major concern for us as they do not have their prescribing doctor in this jurisdiction in the event of an adverse event such as unexpected anaphylaxis which is a risk while on this therapy.

Yours sincerely

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