



Jim O'Callaghan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

8th August 2023

PQ: 35620/23

To ask the Minister for Health the amount of savings that have been achieved under the best value biologic medicines scheme and gain share initiative in each year since its establishment; the full-year costs in each year of the gain share initiative; whether this initiative is still in use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jim O'Callaghan

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 35620/23), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The BvB initiative commenced in July 2019. The Gross Reimbursement costs relating to drugs where there is a BvB alternative to the originator was €892.73m. This figure is inclusive of the Originator and the Biosimilar drug. The overall BvB initiative savings have amounted to €288.76m since 2019.

As at 30th June 2023, the number of patients initiated on or switched to Best Value Biologics on the PCRS Hub was 25,171 which has resulted in a Gainshare amounting to €12.58m being made available to the relevant public department.

69.7% of the items dispensed and c.64.5% of the costs in 2023 was for the BvB alternative to the originator. This represents an uplift on the commencement rate in 2019 of 1.42%. The GainShare initiative ended on 30th June 2023.

The following table details the relevant costs and savings in each year:

Period	Gross Reimbursement	BvB saving	GainShare
	€m	€m	€m
July 2019	€ 102.15	€ 8.87	€ 1.45
2020	€ 213.53	€ 46.10	€ 4.44
2021	€ 228.40	€ 80.35	€ 2.50
2022	€ 233.44	€ 99.14	€ 2.32
June 2023 YTD	€ 115.20	€ 54.31	€ 1.87
	€ 892.73	€ 288.76	€ 12.58

Please note that the above figures are exclusive of any Biosimilar savings resulting from the 2021 Drug Framework Agreement.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service