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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Deputy Paul Kehoe  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

26<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**PQ Number: 29624/23-Deputy Paul Kehoe- To ask the Minister for Health whether his Department is considering funding medications and therapies for persons with early onset Parkinson's (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

Thank you for your representation.

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above representation, which you submitted for a response.

With respect to this request to ask the Minister for Health whether his Department is considering funding medications and therapies for persons with early onset Parkinson's, and with respect specifically to Infrared light therapy products manufactured by Symbyx and Charco neurotech. I wish to confirm that the HSE National Clinical Programme for Neurology is not aware of a substantial evidence base in the context of this technology.

Preliminary steps such as a Health Technology Assessment (HTA) are typically required in the first instance, to determine the appropriate indications and usage of this therapy. HTAs are used to support national-level policy decisions. The findings of a HTA may inform decisions about who should receive an intervention, when and where and if it should be provided, and by whom. That is, the HTA can inform the patients eligible for an intervention, the settings in which it is provided and how it might be administered.

A guidance document, entitled *A Guide to Health Technology Assessment at HIQA (2016)*<sup>1</sup> explains what information is considered in a HTA and how that information is used to produce advice to ensure that investment and disinvestment decisions are well informed and evidence based. It also outlines what the outcomes of the HTA process are and how HTA is used in decision-making. This document is intended to be useful for all stakeholders, ranging from members of expert advisory groups convened to advise HIQA on specific HTAs to members of the general public who are interested in learning more about HTA and how it is used in the Irish healthcare system.



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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Hayden', written in a cursive style.

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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer