Seirbhís Aisíoca Príomhchúraim

Bealach amach 5 an M50, Án Bóthar Thuaidh, Fionnghlas, Baile Átha Cliath 11, D11 XKF3

Guthán: 01 8647100

Primary Care Reimbursement Service

Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 XKF3

Tel: 01- 8647100

Colm Burke, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

3rd April 2023

PQ: 12610/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of prescriptions issued for benzodiazepines as part of a public drug scheme or in a HSE hospital, psychiatric facility or primary care setting and by a private GP from 2011 to date, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 12610/23), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Long Term Illness:

Year	No of Prescriptions
2011	12,957
2012	13,125
2013	13,548
2014	22,574
2015	32,813
2016	37,832
2017	42,633
2018	49,133
2019	51,793
2020	54,139
2021	52,194
2022	54,767
Total	**437,508**

Drug Payment Scheme:

Year	No of Prescriptions
2011	220,406
2012	204,194
2013	164,632
2014	146,850
2015	141,569
2016	134,509
2017	123,926
2018	122,827
2019	118,264
2020	117,917
2021	123,201
2022	160,351
Total	**1,778,646**

General Medical Services:

Year	No of Prescriptions
2011	1,840,761
2012	1,826,401
2013	1,723,326
2014	1,604,649
2015	1,545,696
2016	1,528,796
2017	1,465,732
2018	1,420,481
2019	1,376,943
2020	1,340,158
2021	1,298,836
2022	1,262,459
Total	**18,234,238**

Please note the information provided is based on claim data which has been received by the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) from Community Pharmacists and includes items reimbursed by PCRS only. This data does not capture items dispensed outside of community drug schemes where the prescription has been paid for privately by the patient or patient representative. This data may not capture claims which are under the DPS monthly threshold amount. PCRS does not capture data in relation to diagnosis or indication.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service