



Denis Naughten, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

7th June 2023

PQ: 25357/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will approve the payment for low-dose naltrexone prescribed to long-Covid patients under the drug payment scheme and the medical card scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Denis Naughten

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 25357/23), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Reimbursement support for low-dose Naltrexone to treat long Covid is not available under Community Drug Schemes. Recently the HSE Medicines Management Programme completed a review of this area.

A cursory literature review of the evidence has not identified any further published clinical trials relating to the use of low-dose Naltrexone in long COVID.

HIQA published an International Review of Clinical Guidelines and Models of Care for Long COVID in December 2022. Ten guidelines and one model of care that were deemed to be of higher quality had recommendations concerning the management and or treatment of long COVID. Two guidelines provided recommendations on the management of fatigue. Recommendations included, for example, a staged return to an activity programme, education and energy conservation strategies. There were no pharmacological therapies recommended for the treatment of COVID-associated fatigue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service