



John Lahart, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

12th October 2023

PQ: 42201/23

To ask the Minister for Health if the Minister is considering the repeal of the requirement for a consultant's signature to sign off on the prescribing of cariban, as some GPs feel that they should be able to prescribe this without there being a financial penalty to the woman (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.-John Lahart

Details Supplied:

Details concerning the drug Cariban in the treatment of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy, at present, a consultant is required to sign off on initiation of this medication to give a brief period of access to this medication through the Drugs Payment Scheme; is the Minister considering the repeal of the requirement for a consultant's signature as some GP's feel that they should be able to prescribe this without there being a financial penalty to the woman. Cariban is the first line treatment for nausea and vomiting in pregnancy and GP's have informed me there is no medical reason for a consultant to be involved in the initial prescribing; or that it should be outside the Drugs Payment Scheme and can the Minister make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 42201/23), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

As part of Budget 2023, the Minister announced €32.2 million in funding for Women's Health Initiatives in 2023, to include dedicated funding for Cariban[®] (doxylamine/pyridoxine). Cariban[®] is an Exempt Medicinal Product i.e. not licensed with the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) in Ireland. An exceptional arrangement was put in place effective 1st January 2023 to support the reimbursement of the Exempt Medicinal Product (EMP), Cariban[®] (doxylamine/pyridoxine), under the Community Drug Schemes (GMS and Drugs Payment Schemes) for the treatment of nausea and vomiting of pregnancy (NVP).

This product is made available on an individual patient basis for those patients who meet the criteria under the Community Drug Schemes (GMS and Drugs Payment Schemes) where Consultant Obstetrician initiated.

The HSE carried out a preliminary desktop review of Cariban®. This included engagement with clinical leads, the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) and relevant advocates. The review has been completed and finalised as requested by the Department of Health. There are no changes to the reimbursement arrangement at present.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle'.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service