



Michael Healy-Rae, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

18th October 2023

PQ: 44971/23

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that low dose naltrexone is not covered under the medical card or hardship scheme and that this is used to treat long-Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Healy-Rae

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 44974/23), 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, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle'.

Suzanne Doyle

Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service