



Jennifer Whitmore, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

29th September 2023

PQ: 39530/23

To ask the Minister for Health for an update on when the report on the cariban reimbursement scheme review will be published; if further changes will be made to the scheme than the changes (details supplied) that were announced at the end of August 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.-Jennifer Whitmore

Patient advocate group Hyperemesis Ireland were informed at the end of August by the PCRS that the following changes were being made to the Cariban reimbursement scheme; 1) the three-month limit on Cariban reimbursement form has been removed 2) NCHDs "under the lead Consultant at the maternity hospital" may prescribe Cariban and it will be covered.

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 39530/23), 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle', written over a horizontal line.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service