



Marian Harkin, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

6th October 2023

PQ: 41728/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider including all glaucoma eye drop medication in the long-term illness scheme for people with diabetes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Marian Harkin

Dear Deputy Harkin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 41728/23), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Drugs, medicines and non-drug items reimbursable under the Long Term Illness (LTI) scheme are intended for the treatment of the primary condition. Core Lists were developed following detailed consultation with Medical Officers, HSE Pharmacists and the HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP). The HSE is satisfied that all medicines that should be necessary for the treatment of each primary LTI condition are provided on these Core Lists.

As part of a review of the Core Lists for each LTI condition in 2022, the MMP sought feedback from the relevant clinical programmes to ensure that the lists included all medicines and appliances that should be necessary for the treatment of each primary LTI condition. In the case of Illness F – Diabetes Mellitus, the Clinical Programme for Diabetes was consulted. This review is completed every few years to ensure that the Core Lists reflect current prescribing practices and treatments.

Glaucoma eye drops are not reimbursable under the LTI Scheme for Diabetes Mellitus. The Core List of approved medicines under the LTI scheme for Diabetes can be found at https://assets.hse.ie/media/documents/LTI_List_F_March_2023_by_ATC_including_Non_G_MS_Items.pdf.

However, these products are available under the GMS (medical card) and Drugs Payment Scheme (DPS).

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 the name.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service