



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil  
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Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service  
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Leo Varadkar, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

17<sup>th</sup> June 2024

PQ: 25143/24:

**To ask the Minister for Health to explain why lidocaine patches when prescribed by a pain medicine consultant are not reimbursed on the DPS; and if he will make a statement on the matter.-Leo Varadkar**

Dear Deputy Varadkar,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 25143/24), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

An online application system for reimbursement support of Lidocaine (Versatis®) 5% medicated plasters under Community Drug Schemes was introduced in 2017. Versatis® is indicated for the symptomatic relief of neuropathic pain associated with previous herpes zoster infection (post-herpetic neuralgia, PHN) in adults. The GP or hospital clinician can register the patient details for Versatis® through the PCRS Application Suite. The prescriber will need to outline certain criteria for its use. The application will be reviewed by the HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP) before treatment can be authorised for reimbursement support under the medical card.

There is also the facility for the hospital clinician who prescribed the product at hospital clinic to apply for reimbursement support of Versatis® on behalf of their patient.

Where there is a negative reimbursement decision, the outcome of the application can be appealed by the prescriber. Appeals can be sent directly to the HSE Medicines Management Programme at [mmp@hse.ie](mailto:mmp@hse.ie).

Appeals must be made by the patient's clinician and should include any additional information to support the unmet clinical need for lidocaine (Versatis®) plaster based on failure of other treatment options.

Appeals are reviewed on a case-by-case basis reviewing the information provided in the initial online application and the information in the appeal submission to the MMP. A letter outlining the final reimbursement recommendation is communicated back to the clinician.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle', written in a cursive style.

Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Reimbursement Service

**The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: [Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie](mailto:Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie)**