



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil  
Bealach amach 5, M50, An Bóthar Thuaidh, Fionnghlas  
Baile Átha Cliath 11, D11 XKF3  
Fón: (01) 864 7100 Facs: (01) 834 3589

Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service  
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas,  
Dublin 11, D11 XKF3  
Tel: (01) 864 7100 Fax: (01) 834 3589

Richard Boyd Barrett, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

21<sup>st</sup> May 2024

PQ: 20232/24:

**To ask the Minister for Health whether injections for osteoporosis with the medication festeo are still reimbursable for medical card holders; to provide a rationale for their removal if these injections are no longer available for medical card holders; what recourse medical card holders who have previously required such injections have if they have been removed from the list of reimbursable medications; and if he will make a statement on the matter.-Richard Boyd Barrett**

Dear Deputy Barrett,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 20232/24), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE-Medicines Management Programme (MMP) has completed a review of the medicinal products containing teriparatide that are available on the High Tech Arrangement. The MMP recommends the biosimilar medicines Movymia<sup>®</sup>, Sondelbay<sup>®</sup> and Tetridar<sup>®</sup> as the best-value medicines (BVMs) for teriparatide under the High Tech Arrangements. An evaluation report entitled Best-Value Medicines: Teriparatide on the High Tech Arrangement is available at [www.hse.ie/mmp](http://www.hse.ie/mmp) in the section entitled Best-value medicines.

The BVMs are provided to the HSE at a significantly lower cost than the originator medicine (Forsteo<sup>®</sup>). Prescribing of the recommended BVMs for teriparatide reduces the financial burdens on the HSE arising out of the funding of reimbursed medicines, and can assist in facilitating access to new, innovative medicines for patients.


Reimbursement of teriparatide on the High Tech Arrangement is only supported for the identified BVMs (i.e. Movymia<sup>®</sup>, Sondelbay<sup>®</sup> and Tetridar<sup>®</sup>) in adult patients commencing such therapy. Where a patient has been established on the reference biological medicine (Forsteo<sup>®</sup>) prior to the 1st March 2023, they can continue to access this under the High Tech Arrangement.

The HSE-MMP notes the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) Guide to Biosimilars for Healthcare Professionals. This guide defines interchangeability as "the possibility of exchanging one medicine with another that is expected to have the same effect. This could mean replacing a reference medicine with a biosimilar (or vice versa), or replacing one biosimilar with another." The guide states that, once approved, biosimilars can be used interchangeably with the reference medicine, or with other biosimilars of that reference medicine.

In addition, the HSE-MMP notes the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) joint statement (19th September 2022), which confirms that biosimilar medicines are interchangeable with their reference medicine and with an equivalent biosimilar medicine. This follows a review of the efficacy and safety data that is available for all biosimilar medicines that have been approved in the European Union.

If a prescriber wishes to access the reference biological medicine Forsteo® which is not a BVM, a submission is required to the MMP at [mmp@hse.ie](mailto:mmp@hse.ie) outlining the extenuating circumstances for consideration. Submissions can only be accepted from the hospital prescriber.

Yours sincerely,



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)**