



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

21st May 2024

PQ: 20242/24

To ask the Minister for Health the measures he is taking to ensure that essential medications, such as nozinan, required for palliative care patients being used in place of medications which are currently in short supply are reimbursed by the primary care reimbursement service to community pharmacies, in order that such patients and their families do not incur costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.-Patrick Costello

Dear Deputy Costello,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 20242/24), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) is responsible for co-ordinating the management of shortages of medicines on the Irish market. The HPRA has an existing Medicine Shortages Framework in place to help prevent shortages from occurring and to reduce the impact of shortages on patients by co-ordinating the management of potential or actual shortages as they arise. Available at <http://www.hpra.ie/homepage/about-us/publications-forms/guidance-documents/item?id=c81f0b26-9782-6eee-9b55-ff00008c97d0&t=/docs/default-source/publications-forms/guidance-documents/adv-g0020-medicines-shortages-framework-v2>.

The HPRA works with a variety of stakeholders including the HSE to respond to potential shortages and reduce the impact of shortages on patients.

There was a reported shortage to the HPRA for Nozinan 25 mg/ml solution for injection/infusion. This shortage was resolved on the 22nd April 2024 as indicated on the HPRA website. However, reimbursement was supported for the exempt medicinal product during the duration of the shortage.

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.

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