



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

Pádraig O'Sullivan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

29th May 2024

PQ: 22023/24:

**To ask the Minister for Health the reason sawpallmeto is not reimbursed under the medical card scheme; if he will consider including same in the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
-Pádraig O'Sullivan**

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 22023/24), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

To be included on the GMS Reimbursement List a product must have a marketing authorisation. The addition of a product to the GMS Reimbursement List is underpinned by the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013.

Herbal products/ food supplements/alternative therapies such as Saw Palmetto (classed as a herbal remedy) which are not medicinal products are not approved under Community Drug Schemes or arrangements. These items can be purchased online and in supermarkets/health food stores. They are not restricted to pharmacy sale and supply only.

Under the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013, these products do not satisfy Schedule 3 – "Criteria Applicable to Items and Listed Items for Purposes of Executive Making Relevant Decision Under Section 18.

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