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

23rd April 2025

PQ: 17362/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of new medicines approved per annum in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024; and if she 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 17362/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE has statutory responsibility for decisions on pricing and reimbursement of medicines in accordance with the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013. The HSE is committed to providing access to as many medicines as possible, in as timely a fashion as possible, using the resources available (provided) to it and the HSE considers a range of proposals from Industry when assessing pricing and reimbursement applications. The 2013 Act enables the HSE to consider the terms of any framework agreement in place when it is making decisions in relation to pricing. The HSE robustly assesses applications to ensure available resources can be stretched as far as possible and to deliver the best value in relation to each medicine and ultimately more medicines to Irish citizens and patients.

There are formal processes which govern the pricing and reimbursement of medicines and the application process for new medicines to be funded and / or reimbursed.

HSE decisions on which medicines are reimbursed by the taxpayer are made on objective, scientific and economic grounds.

2020 New Drugs

The HSE approved 10 new medicines and 13 new uses of existing medicines in 2020.

2021 New Drugs

The HSE approved 29 new medicines and 21 new uses of existing medicines in 2021. The HSE also approved expanded reimbursement for 2 further drugs.

2022 New Drugs

The HSE approved 30 new medicines and 30 new uses of existing medicines in 2022.

2023 New Drugs

The HSE approved 15 new medicines and 21 new uses of existing medicines in 2023.

2024 New Drugs

The HSE approved 25 new medicines and 21 new uses of existing medicines in 2024.

I hope this clarifies the matter.

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