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Louis O'Hara, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

12th May 2025

PQ: 20242/25

To ask the Minister for Health if melatonin will be made available under the medical card scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Louis O'Hara

Dear Deputy O'Hara,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 20242/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Melatonin has never been available through the formal Reimbursement List for reimbursement under Community Drug Schemes. Under the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013, products that are licensed will undergo a pricing and reimbursement approval process by the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) on receipt of an application by the HSE from the Marketing Authorisation Holder.

Pharmaceutical companies are required to submit a pricing and reimbursement application should they wish for their product to be added to the Reimbursement List.

Melatonin (Circadin®) underwent a review in 2008 and reimbursement was not recommended by the NCPE as there is currently insufficient evidence to support the reimbursement of this product under the Community Drugs Schemes (available at <http://www.ncpe.ie/drugs/melatonin-circadin/>).

Exceptional arrangements (Discretionary Hardship Arrangements) are considered for supply of items not on Reimbursement List for those with medical card eligibility. All applications for Melatonin under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements are reviewed on an individual patient basis. An individual reimbursement form is required to be completed and submitted by the prescribing consultant in all cases.

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