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Seán Canney, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

15th July 2025

PQ: 35269/25

To ask the Minister for Health if the anti-sickness drug Aakynzeo can be made available on the GMS as it is the only effective anti-sickness medication for many cancer patients, including those with a brain tumour; if she is aware that the cost of buying this medical monthly is placing financial strain on families already dealing with illness; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Seán Canney

Dear Deputy Canney,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 35269/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Hospital pricing approval is in place for netupitant / palonosetron (Akynzeo®) 300 mg/ 0.5 mg capsules for the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting associated with highly emetogenic cisplatin-based cancer chemotherapy and the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting associated with moderately emetogenic cancer chemotherapy from the 2nd November 2015.

The HSE received an application for pricing and reimbursement under the General Medical Services (GMS) and Community Drug Schemes on the 12th May 2016 from Chugai Pharma (the applicant) for netupitant / palonosetron (Akynzeo®) 300 mg/ 0.5 mg capsules indicated in adults for the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting associated with highly emetogenic cisplatin-based cancer chemotherapy and the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting associated with moderately emetogenic cancer chemotherapy.

- The first step in the process is the submission of a Rapid Review dossier (a clinical and economic dossier) to the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) for assessment. The HSE commissioned the Rapid Review process on the 1st June 2016.

- The NCPE Rapid Review assessment report was received by the HSE on the 28th June 2016. The NCPE advised the HSE that they do not recommend reimbursement of netupitant /palonosetron on the GMS scheme.
- The issue of reimbursement scheme was formally and fully considered through the rapid review process. Netupitant/palonosetron (Akynzeo®) has been approved as a Hospital medicine.

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