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Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service
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Pádraig O'Sullivan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

18th July 2025

PQ: 37990/25
To ask the Minister for Health if she will consider increasing the dosage threshold for the treatment of type ii diabetes mellitus (details supplied) to 2 mg, bringing Ireland in line with neighbouring jurisdictions, as currently reimbursement support in Ireland is available for the licensed indication and dosage including and up to 0.25 mg/0.5 mg/1 mg strength providing a four-week supply; 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 37900/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Pharmaceutical companies are required to submit formal applications if they wish their medicines to be added to the list of reimbursable items. The Ozempic® 2mg pen presentation for the higher licensed dosage has not been added to the formal GMS Reimbursement List and the HSE Corporate Pharmaceutical Unit have not received a pricing and reimbursement application for this strength. The Marketing Authorisation Holder has indicated to PCRS that they do not intend to submit a pricing and reimbursement application for the 2 mg presentation in the near future.

Reimbursement support for the 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg and 1mg pens to make up higher doses such as 1.5 mg or 2 mg is not approved under Community Drug Schemes or any arrangement.

To date, the dosage approved by the HSE following the formal processes undertaken in 2020 is 1 mg weekly.

Pharmacy Circular 002/24 (attached) sets out the reimbursement arrangements for Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists such as Ozempic® (semaglutide) including the maximum monthly approved quantities.

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

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28th February 2024

Circular 002/24

RE: Reimbursement of Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists

Dear Pharmacist,

Controls are in place within PCRS on claiming processes to ensure that only HSE approved indications are reimbursed across a range of medicines. Controls are currently in place for the Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists to restrict reimbursement support to the HSE approved indication of Diabetes. This includes Victoza® (liraglutide), Ozempic® (semaglutide) and Trulicity® (Dulaglutide). Therefore, these products are not reimbursed under the Drugs Payment Scheme (DPS) and are confined to those persons with full GMS and LTI (Diabetes Mellitus) eligibility.

Diabetes is one of the Long Term Illness (LTI) conditions for which eligible LTI persons can access their medicines to treat their Diabetes free of charge. Patients diagnosed with Diabetes Mellitus are entitled to be registered under the LTI Scheme.

Liraglutide (Saxenda®) 6 mg/ml solution for injection in pre-filled pen is the only product currently approved under Community Drug Schemes (GMS/DPS) for weight management with a managed access system in place as outlined in Circular 002/23.

Prescriptions for Liraglutide (Victoza®) at doses in excess of 1.8 mg are outside the licensed indication and are not reimbursed under Community Drug Schemes.

Reimbursement support from the HSE is available for the licensed indication and approved dosages only (see table below). To manage the supply of these products**, reimbursement support for lower strength pen presentations to make up a dose is not approved** under Community Drug Schemes or any other HSE arrangement. However, the facility is available to pharmacies for 13 dispensing's in a rolling 12 months to accommodate the shortfall.

GLP-1 receptor agonists under Community Drug Schemes for approved licensed use

Item	Strength	Formulation	Maximum monthly Pack	Scheme
Ozempic® (semaglutide)	0.25MG	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (1 pen, 4 needles)	GMS, LTI

Ozempic® (semaglutide)	0.5MG	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (1 pen, 4 needles)	GMS, LTI
Ozempic® (semaglutide)	1MG	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (1 pen, 4 needles)	GMS, LTI
Trulicity® (dulaglutide)	0.75MG	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (contains 4 pens)	GMS, LTI
Trulicity® (dulaglutide)	1.5MG	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (contains 4 pens)	GMS, LTI
Victoza® (liraglutide)	6MG/ML	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (containing 2 or 3 pens)	GMS, LTI
Saxenda® (liraglutide)	6MG/ML	SOLN/INJ PFP	1 (contains 5 pens)	GMS, DPS

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan
Assistant National Director
Primary Care Reimbursement Service