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Deputy Cullinane
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane

PQ : 38137/25

To ask the Minister for Health the reason a medication (details supplied) is administered in Letterkenny Hospital rather than in a community setting where its efficacy has been demonstrated through continued use for a patient, despite guidance from the manufacturer which states it is suitable for administration in the home; if she will consider a pilot scheme for community-based administration of medicines to provide access to care closer to home using such a medication; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Phesgo is not considered to be an appropriate medication for community administration within the Irish context and is not recommended as such by the NCCP owing to the risk of hypersensitivity or anaphylactic reaction. Indeed, the relevant NCCP documentation states that *"Facilities to treat anaphylaxis MUST be present when systemic anti-cancer treatment (SACT) is administered"*. The fact that the P.Q. asks the Minister if she will consider a pilot scheme evidences the fact that this is not currently recommended practice in Ireland. In the event that community administration services are expanded and improved significantly on a National basis, the position could change but the safety of the patient must remain paramount at all times.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

**Seán Murphy
Hospital Manager
Letterkenny General Hospital**