



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil
Bealach amach 5, M50, An Bóthar Thuaidh, Fionnghlas
Baile Átha Cliath 11, D11 XKF3
Fón: (01) 864 7100 Facs: (01) 834 3589

Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas,
Dublin 11, D11 XKF3
Tel: (01) 864 7100 Fax: (01) 834 3589

David Cullinane, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

25th July 2025

PQ: 39582/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of people accessing products via the medical cannabis access programme, for each product, by condition, by year, in tabular form. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 39582/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Medical Cannabis Access Programme (MCAP) was set up is to facilitate access to acceptable cannabis-based products for medical use that are of a standardised quality and which meet the requirements outlined in the Misuse of Drugs (Prescription and Control of Supply of Cannabis for Medical Use) Regulations 2019) (as amended).

The MCAP provides access for patients with the following medical conditions which have failed to respond to standard treatments:

- spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis resistant to all standard therapies and interventions
- intractable nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy, despite the use of standard anti-emetic regimes
- severe, refractory epilepsy that has failed to respond to standard anticonvulsant medications.

Whilst the regulations are from 2019, MCAP was put into operation by the HSE in November 2021 when products that satisfied the regulatory requirements became available.

Pharmacy reimbursement claim data for MCAP 2021 – 2025:

Claim year	No. unique patients	No. claims per product
Nov 2021-2022	26	Canepil 77 Tilray 15
2023	35	Canepil 93 Tilray 67
2024	43	Canepil 99 Tilray 117 Althea 3
Jan 2025 – May 2025	31	Canepil 45 Tilray 55

Note: Indication/condition is not captured by PCRS for the purpose of reimbursement. Community Pharmacy Contractors are not required to submit the patient condition as part of their reimbursement claims.

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