



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

Pádraig O'Sullivan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

25th July 2025

PQ: 40320/25

To ask the Minister for Health to outline details of any programmes under which the HSE may facilitate access to medicines in emergency circumstances for medicines not on the reimbursement list; 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 40320/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Medicines are added to the formal Reimbursement List following detailed assessments which include assessment of the clinical evidence, the economic evidence and the budget impact of a decision to reimburse specific indications of a medicine. The Primary Care Reimbursement Service is required to reimburse in line with approved decisions of the HSE and the HSE is required to formally assess each medicines and each specific use of such medicines before reimbursing them.

Pharmaceutical companies are required to submit pricing and reimbursement application should they wish for their licensed product to be added to the Reimbursement List. Addition of products to the Reimbursement List is underpinned by the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013.

Exceptional arrangements (Discretionary Hardship Arrangements for medical card holders) are considered for supply of items not on Reimbursement List. Applications 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.

Sufficient clinical information, including therapies trialled to date should be submitted as part of the application to enable a positive recommendation. Applications for reimbursement support under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements are submitted to the HSE local health office

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