



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil
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Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service
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Aengus Ó Snodaigh, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

1st August 2025

PQ: 42003/25

To ask the Minister for Health the reason octenisan is not included on the general medical scheme for those with medical cards and for whom this product is prescribed. -Aengus Ó Snodaigh

Dear Deputy Ó Snodaigh,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 42003/25), 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.

Octenisan® wash is available in pharmacies over the counter, it is advertised to the public and is not subject to prescription controls. Octenisan® wash is not classified as a licensed medicines and would not satisfy the criteria for addition to the Reimbursement List under 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