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Brian Stanley, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

20th June 2025

PQ: 30151/25

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 787 of 20 May 2025, around the re-imbursement list-scheme, the answer states that Liraglutide (Saxenda) is the only product currently approved under community drug schemes GMS/DPS for weight management, to clarify the criteria for use; if person need to be in diagnosis of prediabetes or can other factors such as high cardiovascular disease, hypertension or sleep apnoea qualify a patient for this drug therapy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Brian Stanley

Dear Deputy Stanley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 30151/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Liraglutide (Saxenda®) 6 mg/ml solution for injection in pre-filled pen is available for reimbursement under the Community Drug Schemes (specifically the Drugs Payment and General Medical Services Schemes) since 1st January 2023.

In line with the HSE reimbursement approval above, the HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP) developed a Managed Access Protocol (MAP) for liraglutide (Saxenda®) as an adjunct to a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity for weight management in adult patients, with an initial BMI of ≥ 35 kg/m² with prediabetes and high-risk for cardiovascular disease.

This MAP outlines the criteria that must be satisfied in order for a patient to be recommended for reimbursement of liraglutide (Saxenda®); further information is available on the MMP website <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/medicines-management/managed-access-protocols/liraglutide-saxenda-/liraglutide-saxenda.html>.

As outlined in this MAP, and in line with the reimbursement recommendation, reimbursement is supported for the following subgroup of the licensed population:

- Age 18 - 74 years
- BMI \geq 35 kg/m²

Confirmation of:

- Participation in non-pharmacological interventions which includes a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity e.g. HSE Diabetes Prevention Programme.
- Diagnosis of prediabetes - fasting plasma glucose level between 5.5 - 6.9 mmol/L and Haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) level between 42 - 47 mmol/mol.
- High-risk for cardiovascular disease – either a total fasting cholesterol level > 5 mmol/L, or mean systolic blood pressure > 140 mmHg

Clinicians are required to submit an application for reimbursement support of liraglutide (Saxenda®) for their patients through an online application system. Applications are reviewed by the MMP on a case-by-case basis, and a reimbursement recommendation is communicated back to the clinician or further information may be requested if required.

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