



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

Seán Canney, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

23rd June 2025

PQ: 32323/25

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the drug dioctyl is not covered on the medical card scheme; if she is aware of the financial hardship this is causing patients; if there are plans to have this drug covered in the future; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Seán Canney

Dear Deputy Canney,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 32323/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Dioctyl® (docusate sodium) is an unlicensed medicine in Ireland and therefore it's not available through the GMS Reimbursement List. A product must be licensed with the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) for an application for addition to the Reimbursement List can be accepted by the HSE.

The HSE is satisfied that all requirements can be ordinarily met through the Reimbursement List maintained in compliance with the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act, 2013. However Dioctyl® has been approved on previous occasions for medical card holders under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements for example; palliative care. An individual reimbursement application form needs to be completed in sufficient detail by the prescriber outlining the unmet clinical need and licensed therapies exhausted to date.

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