



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil  
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Cormac Devlin, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

PQ: 33713/25

**To ask the Minister for Health if she will consider extending reimbursement access to baricitinib under the drugs payment scheme for individuals diagnosed with severe alopecia areata, in light of the recent approval of this treatment by the US Food and Drug Administration for this specific indication, and given the growing international clinical consensus on its efficacy; if she will outline the current position of the HSE and the PCRS regarding its use outside of rheumatoid arthritis; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Cormac Devlin**

Dear Deputy Devlin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 33713/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There is a National Application, Assessment & Decision Process for new medicines which is underpinned by Primary Legislation (Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013) put in place by the Oireachtas. The HSE must comply with the relevant legislation when considering investment decisions around new medicines.

The HSE robustly assesses applications for pricing and reimbursement to make sure that it can stretch available resources as far as possible and to deliver the best value in relation to each medicine and ultimately more medicines to Irish citizens and patients.

There are formal processes which govern applications for the pricing and reimbursement of medicines, and new uses of existing medicines, to be funded and / or reimbursed.

Pharmaceutical companies are required to submit formal applications to the HSE if they wish for their medicines to be added to the list of reimbursable items / funded via hospitals. The decision of pharmaceutical companies to market licensed medicines i.e. whether or not to submit a formal application, is outside the control of the HSE.

**In terms of the specific details of applications for pricing and reimbursement of baricitinib (Olumiant®):**

**For alopecia areata:**

As of the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025, a pricing and reimbursement application has not been received by the HSE for baricitinib (Olumiant®) for the treatment of severe alopecia areata. As outlined above, the national assessment and decision process cannot commence in the absence of a pricing and reimbursement application submission to the HSE.

**For rheumatoid arthritis:**

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017, baricitinib (Olumiant®) is reimbursed under the High Tech arrangements for the treatment of moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis in adult patients who have responded inadequately to, or who are intolerant to one or more disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs.

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](mailto:Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie)**