



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

Marie Sherlock, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

27th March 2025

PQ: 10789/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she will consider adding the rental of breast pumps and attachments to the long-term illness scheme for tube fed children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. - Marie Sherlock

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 10789/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There are only certain conditions covered under the Long Term Illness (LTI) scheme. The following medical conditions are covered under the LTI scheme: acute leukaemia; mental handicap; cerebral palsy; mental illness (in a person under 16); cystic fibrosis; multiple sclerosis; diabetes insipidus; muscular dystrophies; diabetes mellitus; parkinsonism; epilepsy; phenylketonuria; haemophilia; spina bifida; hydrocephalus; and conditions arising from the use of Thalidomide

The prescribed illnesses covered by the LTI Scheme are very specific as set down under Section 59(3) of the Health Act, 1970 (as amended). The HSE must implement the LTI scheme as set down in legislation. The HSE has no discretion to confer eligibility under the LTI scheme except for those illnesses that can be certified.

It is not within the remit of the HSE to add other conditions to the Long Term Illness Scheme as this would require a statutory instrument. The HSE does not hold the authority to draft statutory instruments.

Drugs, medicines and non-drug items reimbursable under the LTI scheme are intended for the treatment of the primary condition. Core Lists were developed following detailed consultation with Medical Officers, HSE Pharmacists and the HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP). The HSE is satisfied that all

medicines that should be necessary for the treatment of each primary LTI condition are provided on these Core Lists.

As part of a review of the Core Lists for each LTI condition in 2023, the MMP sought feedback from the relevant clinical programmes to ensure that the lists included all medicines and appliances that should be necessary for the treatment of each primary LTI condition. However, it must be noted that equipment such as rental of breast pumps does not fall under the remit of the Primary Care Reimbursement Service and as such would not be encompassed under Core Lists for reimbursement under the LTI scheme.

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