



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

19th May 2025

PQ: 23064/25

To ask the Minister for Health the reason evorel 50mg and estradot mg are not currently covered on GMS scheme which results in patient has to pay privately for this; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Peter 'Chap' Cleere

Dear Deputy Cleere,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 23064/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) is responsible for co-ordinating the management of shortages of medicines on the Irish market. The HPRA has an existing Medicine Shortages Framework in place to help prevent shortages from occurring and to reduce the impact of shortages on patients by co-ordinating the management of potential or actual shortages as they arise. Available at <http://www.hpra.ie/homepage/about-us/publications-forms/guidance-documents/item?id=c81f0b26-9782-6eee-9b55-ff00008c97d0&t=/docs/default-source/publications-forms/guidance-documents/adv-g0020-medicines-shortages-framework-v2>.

The HPRA works with a variety of stakeholders including the HSE to respond to potential shortages and reduce the impact of shortages on patients.

Evorel® 50mcg patch and Estradot® patches are reimbursable under Community Drug Schemes and are on the published Reimbursement List. However, there is currently a reported shortage of Estradot® patches, as published on the HPRA website. Where there is a shortage, applications for reimbursement support will be considered for medical card holders under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements.

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