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Eoin Ó Broin, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

22nd September 2025

PQ: 46829/25

To ask the Minister for Health regarding the HIQA HTA for reimbursement support for continuous glucose monitoring, if there is a clinical basis for extending reimbursement support only to patients with type1 diabetes mellitus regardless of age who have required insulin from the outset; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Eoin Ó Broin

Dear Deputy Ó Broin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 46829/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

HIQA undertook a HTA at the request of the HSE of which the scope was limited to adult populations with diagnosed type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM). The advice provided to the HSE as part of the HTA was based on the data

available at the time of the assessment. The advice applied to adults with T1DM in receipt of insulin therapy, irrespective of age at onset, method of diagnosis, previous diagnosis of type 2 diabetes, or when insulin treatment was commenced relative to the timing of their diagnosis, or if they have latent autoimmune diabetes.

The HTA advice formed the basis for the creation of a single national reimbursement application system for all CGM sensors. Following on from the recommendations in this HTA, the HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP), in conjunction with the HSE PCRS, and with the support of the HSE Chief Clinical Officer, introduced an online reimbursement application system for all CGM sensors on 1st December 2023. The establishment of this single reimbursement application system for all CGM sensors, replaced the system that was in place for Freestyle Libre sensors. Reimbursement support for CGM sensors at this point in time is based on the HIQA HTA, and is for patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus regardless of age, who have required insulin from the outset. All applications for reimbursement support for CGM sensors are reviewed individually by the MMP, and assessed on their own merits.

The introduction of the reimbursement application system is in accordance with section 20 (a) of the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013, which allows the HSE to attach conditions to the supply or reimbursement of listed items in the interests of one or more of the following: patient safety; cost-effectiveness; maximising appropriate use of the listed items concerned; appropriately applying the resources available to the Executive.

3,165 additional patients have been approved for reimbursement support for continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) sensors. This represents an additional investment by the HSE of approximately €9.7 million across the first full year of reimbursement support for these patients, and increases the availability of CGM sensors to patients with T1DM. Total expenditure in 2024 on CGM sensors under the Community Drug Schemes was €56.7 million.

Reimbursement support for CGM sensors at this time does not extend to other cohorts of patients such as patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who do or do not require insulin, or patients previously diagnosed with type 2 diabetes mellitus which is now classified as type 1 diabetes mellitus based on laboratory investigations such as C-peptide measurement or diabetes-specific autoantibodies. In line with the population considered in the HIQA report, the HSE-MMP are unable to support reimbursement for patients with latent autoimmune diabetes of adults (LADA) at this time.

Extending reimbursement support to all patients in receipt of insulin would lead to expenditure in excess of €130 million annually on CGM sensors, based on current patterns of utilisation (more than double the existing annual spend on CGM sensors).

The HSE MMP/PCRS are not authorised to extend the existing reimbursement criteria and commit subsequent expenditure beyond current run rates. Any widening of the eligibility criteria would need to be approved by the HSE Senior Leadership Team. The provision of the additional funding to support the increase in utilisation of CGM sensors would also be 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