



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

26th September 2025

PQ: 48600/25

To ask the Minister for Health the reason that a medication (Desmopressin Nasal Spray) for the treatment of diabetes insipidus has been removed from the long-term illness scheme; and her views on whether beneficiaries of the scheme should be informed of changes to approved medication rather than discovering this when renewing prescriptions. -Seán Crowe

Dear Deputy Crowe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 48600/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Products are added to the Reimbursement List in line with the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013. Marketing Authorisation Holders are required make formal pricing and reimbursement application to the HSE under the legislation.

Whilst the HSE would actively engage with companies regarding the reasons for withdrawing from the Reimbursement List and seek to address insofar as it can, the decision lies with the Market Authorisation Holder who may for commercial reasons withdraw a product from Community Drug Schemes.

The HSE PCRS can confirm that the Marketing Authorisation Holder for Desmospray® (desmopressin) has submitted a discontinuation notification form to the HSE for withdrawal of the product from the Reimbursement List. The Marketing Authorisation Holder has stated that Desmospray® 10 micrograms Nasal Spray has been withdrawn from the Irish market due to the prolonged unavailability of the product. Desmospray® 10 micrograms Nasal Spray has been available since 2020.

There are alternative desmopressin products available on the Reimbursement List. Additionally where a product is withdrawn from the Reimbursement List or there is a shortage, applications for reimbursement support of the EMP desmopressin sprays will be considered.

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