



Ged Nash, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

21st April, 2021

PQ: 19526/21

To ask the Minister for Health his views on the campaign by an organisation (details supplied) to make first line treatments available under the medical card and drug payment scheme; his plans to include cariban on the medical card or on the drug payment scheme given it is one of the first line treatments prescribed for women with hyperemesis given it is not licensed here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Ged Nash

Hyperemesis Ireland, a national charity to help women with Hyperemesis is currently running a campaign #HG2costly to make first line treatments available on the Medical Card and Drug Payment Scheme).

Dear Deputy Nash,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 19526/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Cariban (doxylamine / pyridoxine) is an unlicensed product that is not reimbursable under GMS and Community Drug Schemes. Only licensed products are added to the formal GMS Reimbursement List in line with the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013.

Xonvea® (doxylamine / pyridoxine) is the licensed product with the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) in Ireland. Xonvea is currently undergoing formal pricing and reimbursement assessment <http://www.ncpe.ie/drugs/doxylamine-pyridoxine-xonvea/>. To date, a pricing and reimbursement application has not been received by the HSE for Navalem®(doxylamine / pyridoxine) which is also licensed by the HPRA in Ireland.

Under the legislation there are formal processes which govern applications for the pricing and reimbursement of medicines. The HSE does not reimburse medicines or agree reimbursement terms in advance of the completion of the required processes. The HSE does not intend to reimburse Cariban under Community Drug Schemes or review the clinical evidence for this unlicensed product. As there is a licensed product (Xonvea®) available in Ireland going through the formal process, the clinical evidence for this product will be examined as part of the national pricing and reimbursement assessment

The PCRS cannot comment on the Ministers views of the campaign.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service