



24<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

Deputy Alan Dillon, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 26048/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE will recognise ankylosing spondylitis as a disease, as those suffering receive a disease modifying drug, however under the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005, this illness is not recognised as a disease; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Dillon,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Rheumatology on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The National Clinical Programme for Rheumatology has advised that Ankylosing Spondylitis is categorised as a disease in The World Health Organisation International Classification of Diseases (version 11), also known as WHO ICD-11<sup>1</sup>.

The Ankylosing Spondylitis reference in the ICD-11 for mortality and morbidity statistics is coded as: FA92.OZ Axial Spondyloarthritis<sup>2</sup>.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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**Anne Horgan**  
General Manager

#### References

1. [ICD-11 for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics \(who.int\)](http://www.who.int);
2. <http://id.who.int/icd/entity/1505896560>

