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John Paul Phelan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

6th November 2024

PQ: 45138/24:

To ask the Minister for Health when Ireland intends to align with the NICE recommendations on CGM for certain eligible cohorts of insulin-using individuals with type 2 diabetes (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -John Paul Phelan

Details Supplied:

In light of Ireland's historical alignment with NICE recommendations through its own national clinical guidelines, and considering the recent HIQA rapid health technology assessment, which supports the use of continuous glucose monitoring for individuals with Type 1 diabetes,

Dear Deputy Phelan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 45138/24), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE has statutory responsibility for pricing and reimbursement decisions under the Community Drug Schemes, in accordance with the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013. In making a relevant reimbursement decision, the HSE is required under the Act to have regard to a number of criteria including the clinical efficacy, the health needs of the public, cost effectiveness, and potential or actual budget impact.

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Rapid Health Technology Assessment (HTA) of Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) in Adults with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus was published on 29th September 2023. The published document can be found at: [Rapid Health Technology Assessment of Continuous Glucose Monitoring in Adults with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus | HIQA](#)

In line with the advice from HIQA and due to the budget impact associated with CGM sensors, the HSE established a single reimbursement application system for all CGM sensors on the reimbursement list on 01/12/2023.

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.

An application for reimbursement support of CGM sensors can be submitted for any patient, and each application is reviewed by the HSE-Medicines Management Programme (MMP) on a case-by-case basis.

Clinical recommendations from other jurisdictions, including from the UK, are not directly applicable to the Irish healthcare setting. To date, a HTA of CGM sensors for people with type 2 diabetes mellitus in the Irish setting has not been undertaken. Therefore, there is limited evidence to support the extension of reimbursement of CGM sensors to this cohort, including cost-effectiveness assessment and budget impact of same.

According to HSE-MMP analysis, there has been an increase in utilisation and total expenditure on CGM sensors, under the Community Drug Schemes over the last three years. The number of individuals in receipt of CGM sensors under the Community Drug Schemes on a monthly basis between January 2021 and December 2023, increased from approximately 6,000 to 16,900, while total monthly expenditure increased from approximately €1.57 million to €5.35 million. Total expenditure on CGM sensors under the Community Drug Schemes in 2023 was estimated by the MMP to be approximately €55.7 million. It is estimated that the cost of extending reimbursement eligibility for CGM sensors to all people in receipt of insulin under the Community Drug Schemes for one year would be in the region of €120 million.

The MMP have undertaken an evaluation to identify preferred CGM sensor(s) with associated system(s). This evaluation was published on 19/07/2024. This review included consideration of submissions from relevant stakeholders, including the suppliers of the CGM sensors, healthcare professional organisations and patient organisations.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/medicines-management/glucose-monitoring/preferred-cgm-sensors/>

Following identification of preferred CGM sensors, the MMP is now undertaking a communication process which includes engagement with the HSE-Senior Leadership, the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes and upcoming meetings with diabetes healthcare professionals. The MMP are closely monitoring prescribing changes and uptake of the preferred products, and will utilise the data obtained to consider appropriate mechanisms to facilitate utilisation of the preferred products. This process will allow prescribers and diabetes centres the opportunity to implement the preferred CGM guidance into their practice.

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