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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Deputy Róisín Shortall  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**PQ43935/24-To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE intends to no longer prescribe a treatment for Covid-19 in high-risk patients (details supplied); the basis for this decision; the engagements he has had with patient presentative groups; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ42079/24-To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of plans to cease the use of a treatment for public patients at highest risk from Covid-19 (details supplied); the reason the HSE has taken this decision; the engagements he has had with representatives of vulnerable patient groups in respect of this decision; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

Thank you for your representation.

The HSE SLT has agreed restricted reimbursement of Nirmatrelvir / Ritonavir (Paxlovid®) under the Community Drug Schemes for the treatment of COVID-19 in adults who do not require supplemental oxygen and who are at increased risk for progressing to severe COVID-19. Specifically, Nirmatrelvir / Ritonavir (Paxlovid®) should be reimbursed in limited circumstances for selected seriously immunocompromised COVID-19 patients within the licensed indication.

Regarding next steps, the final necessary administrative processes are currently in progress to enable reimbursement of Nirmatrelvir / Ritonavir (Paxlovid®). It is anticipated that reimbursement will be in effect imminently upon completion of these administrative processes.

I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager , Office of the Chief Clinical Officer