# PRESS RELEASE

## IPHA welcomes decision to reimburse Cystic Fibrosis medicines

### Decisions required for 40 other innovative medicines awaiting funding approval

### Orderly process will avoid distress to patients

**11/04/'17**

The Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association (IPHA) has welcomed the decision by the HSE to reimburse new Cystic Fibrosis medicines as evidence of a policy commitment to new patients getting access to new medicines.

However, while acknowledging this as good news for many cystic fibrosis sufferers and their families, IPHA has expressed concern at the many other innovative drugs that are awaiting reimbursement by the HSE.

"*While there has been much publicity about this CF medicine, it should be noted that many more patients and their doctors are awaiting a decision from the HSE on the funding of other drugs, for example, in oncology, respiratory and cardio vascular care"*, according to IPHA CEO Oliver O'Connor.

*"The Minister for Health stated in a recent PQ that as of 1 March, that there were 40 licensed drugs awaiting a reimbursement decision. Many of these have been in the process for a considerable length of time.*

*IPHA entered into an Agreement with the State last summer that will see savings of over €780 million delivered. These savings provide the state with the headroom to invest in new drugs. The savings are accounted for by averaging the price of new drugs against 14 other EU countries, annual price reductions, rebates, as well as other significant measures. In return for these savings, patients should be getting timely access to new drugs*", he added.

**Mr O'Connor said**: *"IPHA member companies will continue to engage in the orderly reimbursement process set out in the Agreement. That process does not, and should never need to, involve political lobbying and campaigning and, most of all, distress and anxiety for patients awaiting vital new medicines.*

*"IPHA companies shall play our part in bringing new medicines forward in the agreed pricing framework. With the HSE carrying out its role efficiently, within the timelines as set out in the Agreement, timely and orderly access to new medicines in a cost effective way will be achieved."*

Ends

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