

## INTRODUCTION

- In the Republic of Ireland, the Health Act of 2013 established the Reimbursement List and empowered the Health Service Executive (HSE) to add or remove medicines to the List based on factors such as patient safety, cost-effectiveness, and appropriate use of medicines and available resources.[1]
- Health Technology Management (HTM), defined as measures put in place to enhance the safe, effective and cost-effective use of medicines post-reimbursement, is provided for under Section 20 of the Health Act.[1]
- The HSE-Drugs Group is charged with making reimbursement recommendations regarding the addition of medicines to the Reimbursement List.
- This observational study design involves the review of outcomes and decisions made based on minutes of meetings of the HSE-Drugs Group.

## METHODS & MATERIALS

- The HSE-Drugs Group meetings minutes from January 2018 to December 2023 were reviewed through content analysis and data was extracted using a data collection form.[2]
- The data was cleaned, deduplicated and analysed with Microsoft Excel for trends in positive/conditional positive recommendations with HTM.

## RESULTS

- The HSE-Drugs Group gave a total of 157 positive/conditional positive recommendations over the study period (n = 26, 23, 20, 33, 27 and 28 in 2018 - 2023) (Fig. 1).

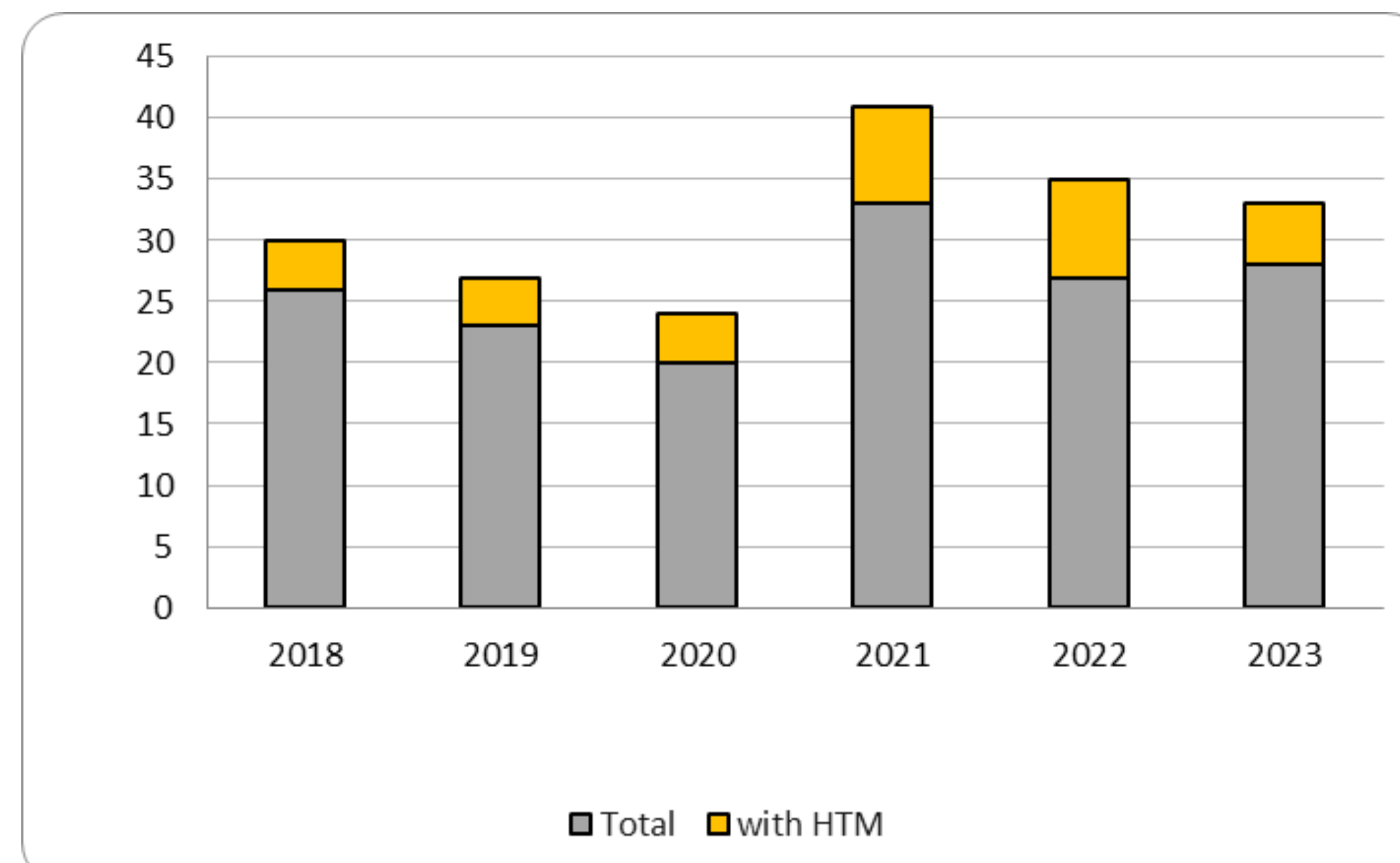


Figure 1: Number of Positive/Conditional Positive Reimbursement Recommendations with HTM.

- Of these, 33 medicines received a positive/conditional positive recommendation with HTM (four in 2018, 2019 and 2020, eight in 2021 and 2022, and five in 2023).

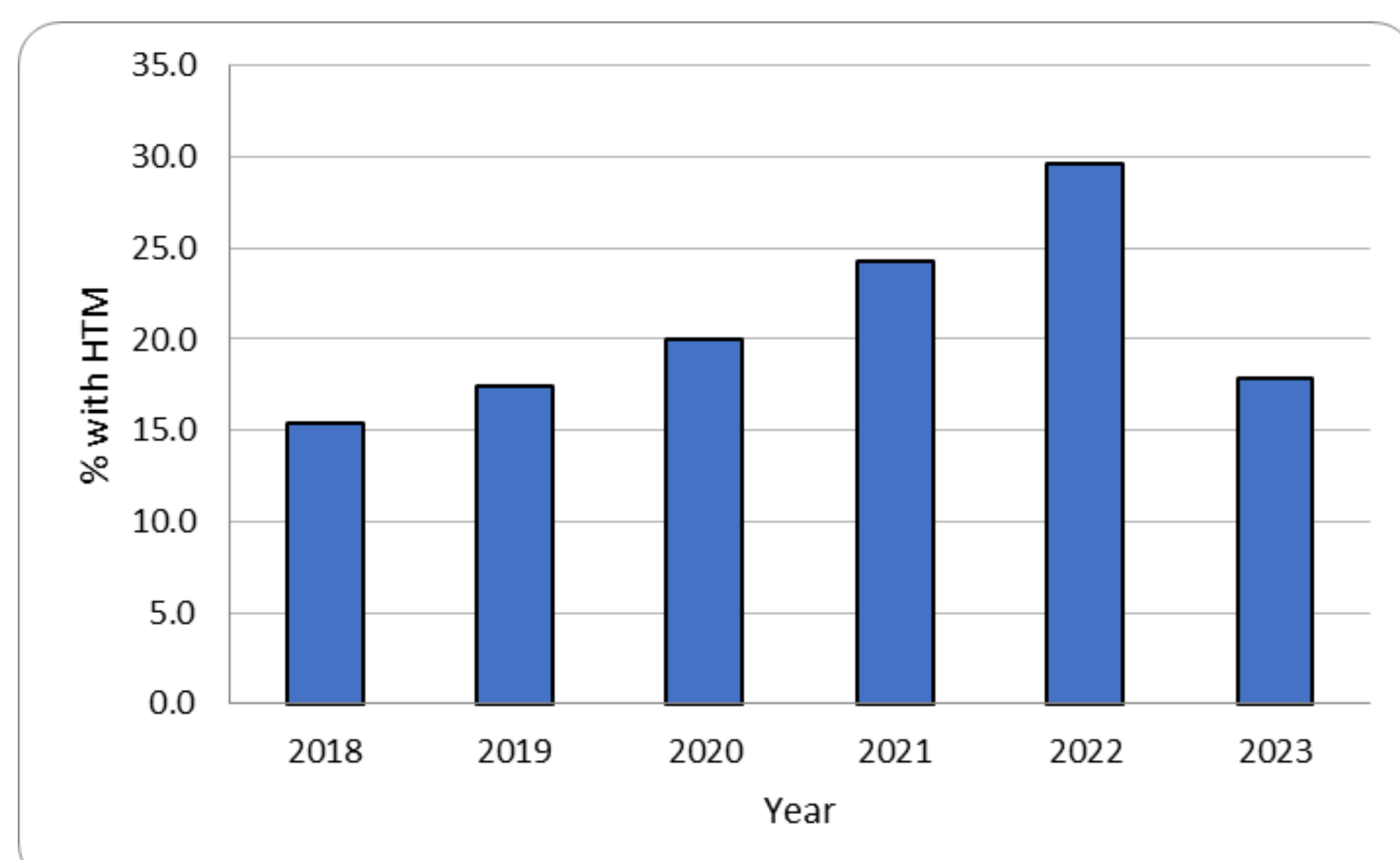


Figure 2: Percentage Distribution of Positive/Conditional Reimbursement Recommendations with HTM.

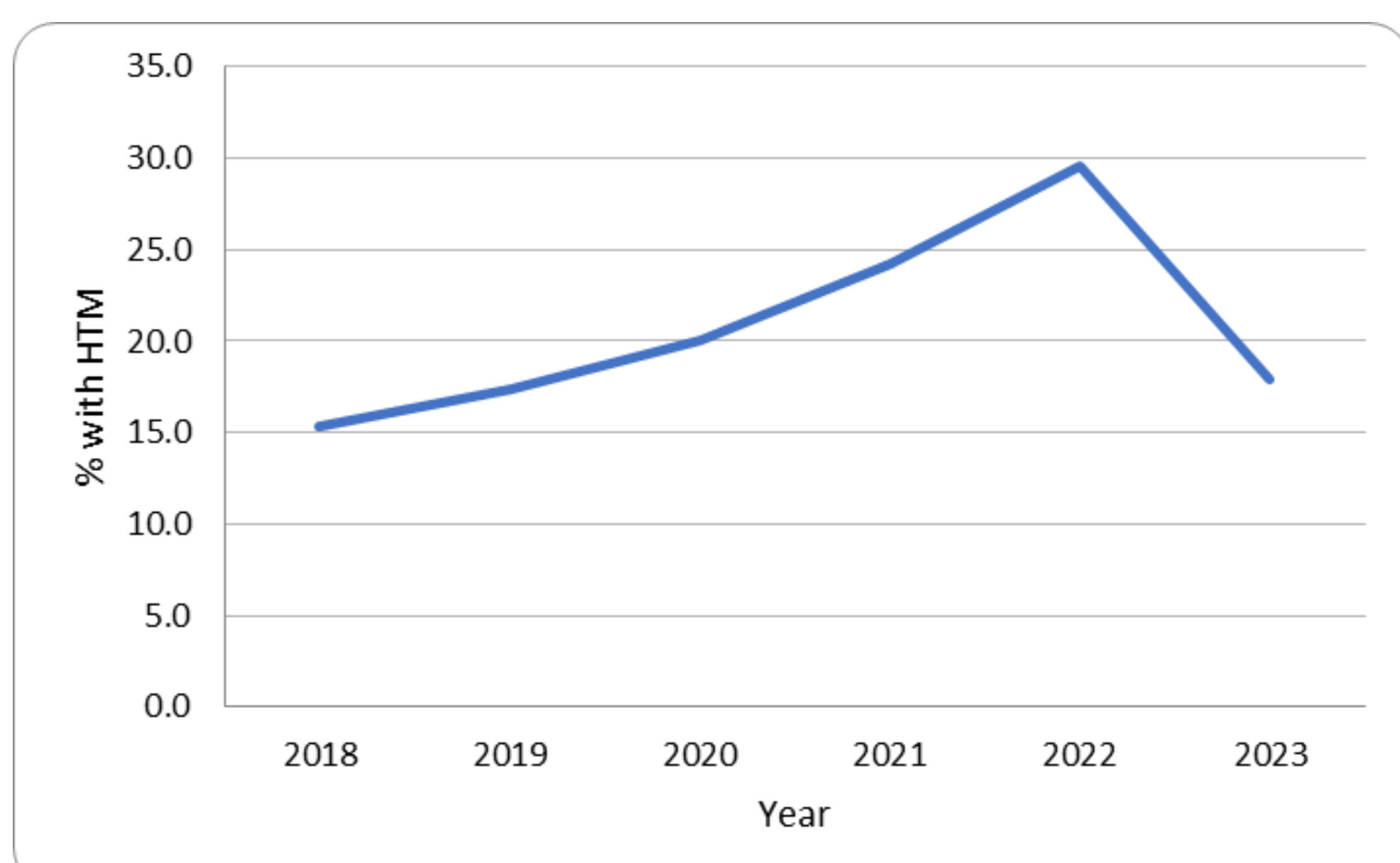


Figure 3: Percentage Change in Positive/Conditional Positive Reimbursement Recommendation with HTM.

- The proportion of positive/conditional positive recommendations contingent on HTM increased year-on-year between 2018 and 2022 before declining in 2023.
- In 2022, the highest proportion of recommendations with HTM was seen at 29.6%, compared with 15.4% in 2018 (Fig. 2 and 3).

## DISCUSSION

- Our study showed a year-on-year increase in the percentage of recommendations with HTM by the HSE-Drugs Group from 2018 to 2022 before dropping in 2023. The expenditure on medicines by the HSE has also increased year-on-year since 2017.[3]
- HTM measures are intended to contain utilisation and expenditure on medicines that are high cost or have a high budget impact.
- HTM can be used to contain prescribing of medicines to the patient population where reimbursement has been approved, based on the available clinical and cost-effectiveness evidence.[4]
- HTM can also assist the payer to divest from existing medicines on the Reimbursement List with low value for money compared with newer therapies, by enabling the introduction of innovative medicines which otherwise might not be reimbursed.[4]

## CONCLUSION

- Our study found an increase in the proportion of positive/conditional positive recommendations with HTM over the study period.
- Further research is needed to explore the factors underpinning decision-making.

## REFERENCES

- Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013, S. 18, Houses of the Oireachtas (2013).
- Health Service Executive-Drugs Group Minutes; [Available from: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cpu/drugs-group-minutes/>].
- PCRS. Primary Care Reimbursement Service Statistical Analysis of Claims and Payments 2022. Health Service Executive; 2022.
- Smith A, Doran S, Daly M, Kennedy C, Barry M. Effect of an Online Reimbursement Application System on Prescribing of Lidocaine 5% Medicated Plaster in the Republic of Ireland. Applied Health Economics and Health Policy. 2021;19(1):133-40.

Contact: [alugad@tcd.ie](mailto:alugad@tcd.ie)