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Introduction

- The Irish reimbursement process for medicines involves many stakeholders across the Health Service Executive (HSE).¹
- The National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) conducts an initial Rapid Review to recommend on reimbursement or advise a full health technology assessment (HTA).^{1,2}
- The HSE Drugs Group evaluates the application, including the company's commercial offer, and recommends to HSE leadership, applying criteria in Schedule 3, Part 3 of the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013.¹
- In their evaluation, the Drugs Group may request improved commercial terms or additional information for reconsideration at a future meeting.³

Objective

- To describe oncology indications considered by HSE Drugs Group in 2022-2024 capturing reimbursement status and reporting on frequency of Drugs Group consideration per new indication/medicine.

Method

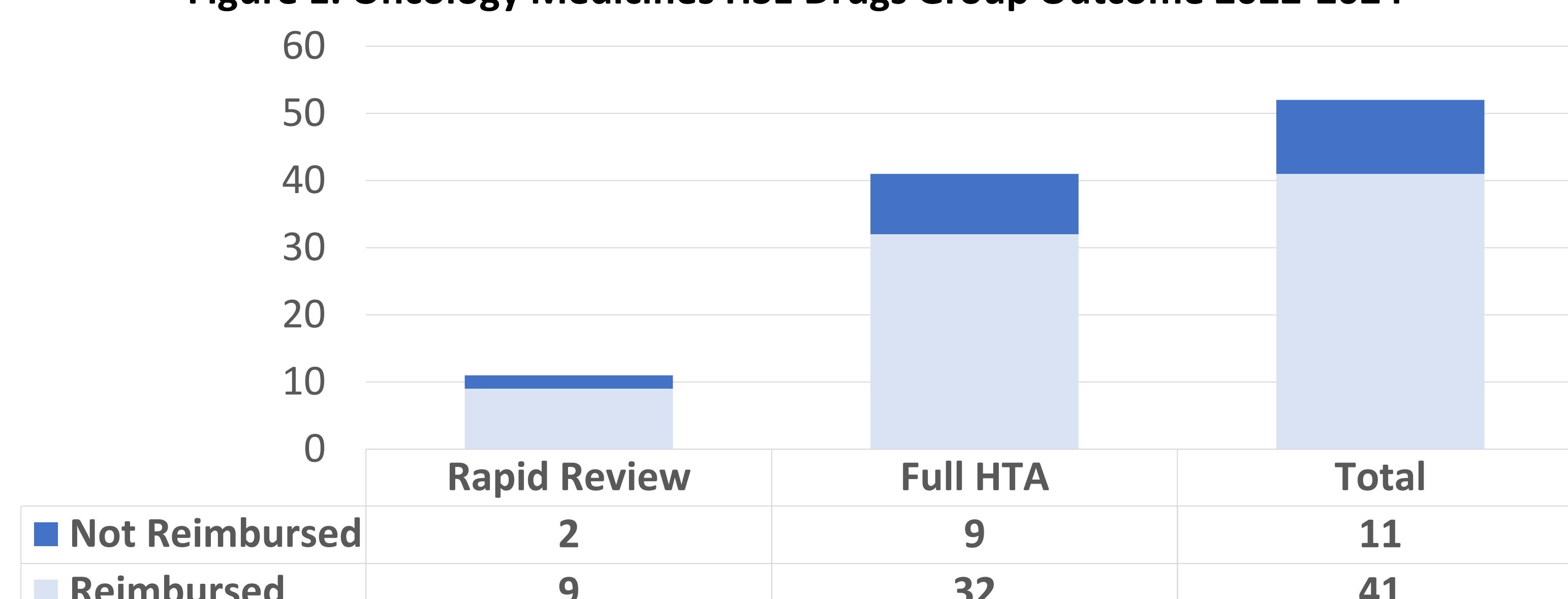
- The HSE Drugs Group monthly minutes were analysed across 2022-2024 for oncology applications.³
- Information was collected for each medicine or indication regarding the Drugs Group recommendation and whether further discussion occurred in subsequent meetings.
- Each reimbursement application was validated for consistency with Drugs Group recommendations and the NCPE website.
- The application type (full HTA or Rapid Review) was determined by information published by the NCPE website.
- Drugs Group minute data was used to summarise the reason for non-reimbursement.

Results

Drugs Group Outcome

- 52 oncology indications or medicines were discussed at HSE Drugs Group across the 3-year period and of those, 41 were reimbursed (79%).
- There was no meaningful difference in reimbursement rate of oncology indications/medicines recommended for a full HTA (41) versus those which were not (11), 78% and 81% respectively.

Figure 1. Oncology Medicines HSE Drugs Group Outcome 2022-2024



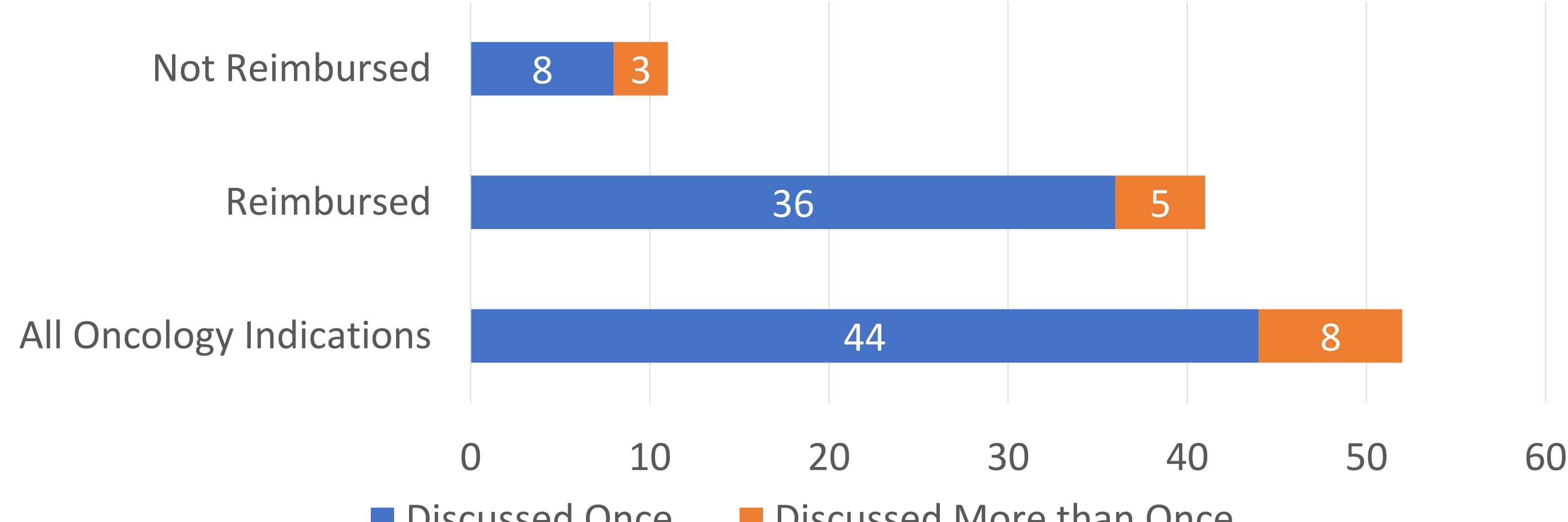
Abbreviations: HSE, Health Service Executive; HTA, Health Technology Assessment.

Reasons for Non-Reimbursement at Full HTA

- Of the nine-oncology full HTA applications not reimbursed:
 - Limited clinical data:** 4 applications (2 based on Phase 1/2 trial data, 2 lacking robust comparative evidence)
 - Value concerns:** 5 applications (4 showed no or modest improvement in overall survival, 1 combination regimen above cost-effectiveness threshold)

Number of Drugs Group Discussion

Figure 2. Frequency of HSE Drugs Group Consideration Oncology Applications (2022–2024)



Abbreviation: HSE, Health Service Executive.

- Of the 41 reimbursed oncology applications 36 were considered by HSE Drugs Group once (88%).
- Of 11 applications not reimbursed 8 were considered by Drugs Group once only (73%) over the 3-year period.

Conclusion

- In the period 2022-2024 almost 4 in 5 oncology applications discussed by HSE Drugs Group in Ireland were reimbursed.
- Data packages and commercial offers appear to be largely acceptable to the HSE Drugs Group in that a decision can be made in the significant majority of cases with only one consideration by Drugs Group, 85% of all cases.

References

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