2027 BUDGET ASKS

ASTHMA SOCIETY OF IRELAND

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Our vision is that everyone with asthma in Ireland lives a full life, symptom-free.

FREE MART INHALERS FOR 12-17 YEAR OLDS

- Phased introduction of free MART (ICS-formoterol) inhalers, beginning with those aged 12–17, at an estimated cost of **€12.1 million.**

DEPARTMENT/AGENCY

- Dept. of Finance
- Dept. of Health
- Dept. of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation
- Health Service Executive

OPTIMISE SEVERE ASTHMA CARE

- Invest **€12,350** for a Research Data Assistant Grade IV to input data to the Paediatric Severe Asthma Registry.
- Allocate multiannual funding for the establishment and maintenance of an adult Severe Asthma Registry, at an estimated **€500,000**.
- Invest **€64,623** to ensure that every clinic treating severe asthma patients has a minimum of one fully qualified Advanced Nurse Practitioner in post.
- Invest **€25,000** per year for three years to fund a Grade IV Data Administrator to support Ireland's participation in the International Severe Asthma Registry (ISAR).

- Dept. of Finance
- Dept. of Health
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- Health Service Executive

IMPROVE ACCESS TO DIAGNOSTICS

- Increase funding for diagnostic services to ensure equitable access to objective asthma testing in primary and community care through Community Health Hubs.

- Dept. of Finance
- Dept. of Health
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- Health Service Executive

REIMBURSE SUBLINGUAL IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR DUST MITE ALLERGY THROUGH THE GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES SCHEME

- Complete the ongoing Health Technology assessment and reimburse SLIT for dust mite allergy through the GMS Scheme.

DEPARTMENT/AGENCY

- Dept. of Health
- Health Service Executive

EXPAND ACCESS TO VACCINATIONS TO PROTECT VULNERABLE PATIENTS

- Offer the enhanced flu vaccine to people aged 65+, with a focus on older persons with chronic lung diseases such as asthma.
- Continue pricing negotiations to secure a cost-effective agreement that enables the introduction of RSV immunisation for eligible infants and older adults.
- Align pneumococcal vaccine access with the seasonal flu programme by funding GP administration fees for all at-risk groups.

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DISINCENTIVISE SMOKING AND E-CIGARETTE USE

- Increase the cost of cigarettes by 50c per pack for an estimated yield of **€35 million**.
- Increase E-liquid Products Tax (EPT) by 50c per millilitre of e-liquid for e-cigarettes for an estimated additional yield of **€37.8 million**.
- Increase funding for tobacco cessation services by **€30 million**.

DEPARTMENT/AGENCY

- Dept. of Finance
- Dept. of Health
- Dept. of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation
- Health Service Executive

SUPPORT ASTHMA-FRIENDLY HOMES AND ENVIRONMENTS

- Increase funding for the Warmer Homes Scheme and establish a dedicated respiratory health pathway for households affected by chronic lung disease and energy poverty, supported by a targeted awareness campaign.
- Allocate at least 20% of the annual transport capital budget to walking and cycling, with the remaining 80% divided between public transport and road maintenance in a 2:1 ratio in favour of public transport.

- Dept. of Finance
- Dept. of Health
- Dept. of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation
- Dept. of Climate, Energy and the Environment
- Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Health Service Executive

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