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www.hse.ie

your HSE guide

West Cork

West Cork Local Health Office
Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co. Cork
Tel: (028) 40476



The Local Health Office is the central focus of all community health and personal social services in your local area. West Cork Health Office looks after the health and personal social service needs of communities in West Cork and provides a wide range of services either from the Local Health Office in Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen or through the Health Centres and other locations listed in this booklet.

Welcome

As Local Health Manager for the Health Services Executive in West Cork, I am delighted to introduce the Health Service Executive Guide, which we have produced to make sure you have all the information you need about the health service in this area.

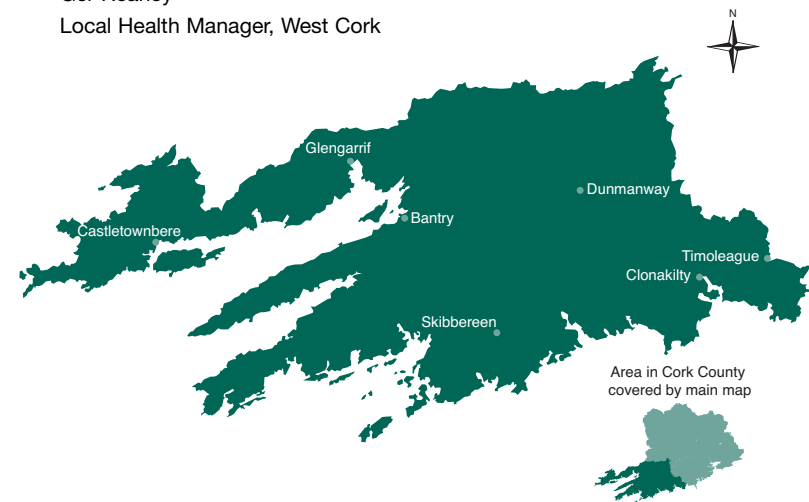
This booklet gives you a full list of the health and personal social services in our area and nearby. It also contains useful information on how to access services, and on entitlements such as Medical Cards, the new GP visit cards, Nursing Home Care and more.

Along with my management team and all the staff in West Cork Local Health Office, we are anxious to ensure that the community health services in this area work for you, and to also work closely with other HSE services in nearby areas and across the country, so that the people living in this area can access the services they need when they need them.

We are also working closely with Bantry General Hospital and the Acute General Hospitals in Cork City so that people will be able to move easily between the community and hospital system as they need it.

I hope that you find the HSE Guide of use, and that you keep it somewhere safely in your home, so that if an occasion arises, it will be at hand with the information you need.

Ger Reaney
Local Health Manager, West Cork



Area in Cork County covered by main map

your HSE guide

HSE infoline: Callsave 1850 24 1850

The Health Service Executive provides a national information service, the HSE infoline, which offers everyone in Ireland easy access to information on over 110 health and social service topics, all for less than the cost of a local call.

The service can provide confidential information on a wide range of queries, like:

- Medical Cards
- GP Visit Cards
- European Health Insurance Card
- Drugs Payment Scheme
- Long-Term Illness Scheme
- Back to School Clothing and Footwear Scheme
- Home Help Services
- Nursing Home Subvention
- Health Promotion literature.

The HSE infoline can also advise on health services, entitlements, eligibility, application forms and contact details for services across the country.

Information is also made available via email or fax, and the infoline offers a sigma text-pad facility for people with a hearing impairment.

The HSE Infoline operates from 8.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Saturday.

YOU CAN CONTACT THE HSE INFOLINE ON:

Callsave: 1850 24 1850

Fax: (041) 685 0330

Email: info@hse.ie

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YOUR GUIDE TO HEALTH SERVICES

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Health Services – What am I entitled to?

We all need to use the health service at some point in our lives. The Health Service Executive (HSE) runs all of Ireland's public health and personal social services, including hospitals, health centres, community services for older people and much much more.

Who is eligible for Health Services in Ireland?

Everyone who is ordinarily resident in Ireland is eligible for public health services. This means people who have been living here for a minimum of one year or intend to live here for a minimum of one year.

Do I have to pay for Health Services?

Ireland has a government funded public health service, where all people living here are entitled to certain services either free of charge or at a reduced cost. These services include:

- Visits to a Public Hospital Consultant, when referred by your GP.
- Stays in a Public Hospital, where the only charge to you will be a nominal in-patient charge, for up to the first 10 nights. Medical card holders are exempt from these charges.
- Accident and Emergency Departments do charge a fee for walk in visits, but if you are referred by your GP or you hold a current medical card, your visit is free.
- All schoolchildren can receive free dental checks and care up to the age of 14 years, and all children can avail of their required childhood immunisations free of charge from a GP.
- All expectant mothers are entitled to free Maternity Care and Post Natal visits up to six weeks after a baby is born, including Public Health Nursing following the birth of a child. Developmental checks are also provided for all infants and young children.
- GP services are free in Ireland for those who hold either a Medical Card or a GP Visit Card. Other patients must pay a consultation fee.

Hundreds of other health and personal social services are provided by the HSE to you and your family. The following pages outline the main schemes and benefits available, and the second part of this booklet gives you contact details for all the essential HSE services in your area.

Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards

Medical Card holders are entitled to GP services, community services, dental services, prescription medicine costs, hospital care and a range of other benefits free of charge. People can qualify for a medical card either on the basis of their income, or in some cases if a particular medical condition means their basic medical costs are very high. All people aged over 70 are entitled to a full medical card regardless of means.

GP Visit Card holders are entitled to the services of a GP free of charge. The income guidelines are 50% higher than the Medical Card.

Who can apply?

Anyone can apply for a GP Visit Card or a Medical Card – families, single people, even those working full time.

Is it means tested?

Yes, but for GP Visit Card and Medical Card applications, the HSE now considers your income *after* tax and PRSI is deducted, rather than total income. We also make generous allowances for your expenses on childcare, on rent and mortgage costs and on travel to work.

The HSE can also grant Medical or GP Visit Cards to individuals or families who exceed the income guidelines, but who have particular circumstances, e.g. chronic illness, that mean medical costs would result in undue hardship.

How do I apply?

It is easy and very simple to apply. One application form is now used for both Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, and the HSE will assess each application for a full Medical Card in the first instance and then for a GP Visit Card.

The HSE has set up a handy calculator on our website – www.hse.ie. It allows you to enter your details and will give you a guide to your eligibility for a GP Visit Card or a Medical Card. You can confirm this by then making a full application at any Health Centre or Local Health Office.

Contact the HSE today to see if you can get a GP Visit Card or a Medical Card. You can pick up an application form from your local Health Office, from our website, www.hse.ie, or call the HSE infoline on callsave: 1850 24 1850.

Drugs Payment Scheme

What is the Drugs Payment Scheme?

With a Drugs Payment Scheme (DPS) card, an individual or family in Ireland only has to pay a maximum amount monthly for approved prescribed drugs, medicines and certain appliances. As of September 2006, the maximum amount a family must pay is €85. Please check our website, www.hse.ie or your Local Health Office for any changes to this amount.

Everyone in Ireland who does not have a Medical Card should apply for a DPS card.

This scheme is aimed at those who normally have to pay the full cost of their medication. It also applies to those who have a GP Visit Card. Anyone ordinarily resident in Ireland can apply to join the scheme, regardless of family, financial circumstances or nationality. Being ordinarily resident in Ireland means that you have been living here for a minimum of one year or that you intend to live here for a minimum of one year.

If a family combines a Drugs Payment Scheme card with a GP Visit Card, it could mean they would pay no more than €20 per week for GP Visits or prescriptions. See the previous pages for information on GP Visit Cards.

How do I apply?

You can get a registration form from your pharmacy or Local Health Office. Fill in the details of all your family members. Send it to your Local Health Office and you will be sent a card for each member of your family. You do not have to register with a particular Pharmacy for the DPS but for convenience it is advisable to use the same pharmacy in a particular month if you wish to avoid paying more than the maximum amount per month. You must present your card each time you attend before a prescription can be dispensed.

If you lose or misplace your Drugs Payment Scheme card, contact your Local Health Office. You can also call the HSE infoline: 1850 24 1850, for more information.

European Health Insurance Card

The card that covers EU.

What is the EHIC?

The European Health Insurance Card or EHIC was introduced in 2004 across the European Union. It allows Irish Residents to access health services in any EU country and in Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, if they become ill or injured while on a temporary stay in that country.

Is the EHIC free of charge?

There is no charge to apply for or renew an EHIC. The HSE accepts renewals and applications for EHIC cards at all HSE Local Health Offices, and on the HSE managed site – www.ehic.ie.

What do I do if I become ill or injured in another member state?

To obtain healthcare with the Card, go to the nearest public system doctor, public hospital, or other public treatment centre and present your Card. Treatment in a private setting is not covered by the Card.

Do I need private insurance in addition to the Card?

Public healthcare systems vary from country to country. The Card does not cover the cost of repatriation and in addition, illness or an accident abroad may mean extra travel and accommodation costs. You may therefore wish to take out private insurance for your trip. You will find more about your entitlements in particular countries at your Local Health Office or on www.ehic.ie.

How long will it take to get a Card?

You will receive your Card within approximately 10 working days of receipt of your application.

What if I don't have time to get a Card before I travel?

You can get a Temporary Replacement Certificate, which gives you the same entitlement as the Card, but for a shorter period, and can be issued by your local Health Office. One Temporary Replacement Certificate is issued per person.

How do I apply?

Applying for the card is very easy. Application forms are available from local HSE Health Centres, from your Local Health Office or from our website, www.ehic.ie. You can also call the HSE infoline: 1850 24 1850, for more information.

Immunisation

What is immunisation?

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting your child against certain diseases. Children and young people in Ireland are entitled to certain vaccinations and immunisation services free of charge. These vaccines are provided in a range of settings: by your GP, in hospitals, at Health Centres, at home or at school.

Is immunisation free?

Vaccinations under the Childhood Immunisation Programme in Ireland are provided free of charge to all children. The childhood immunisation programme (outlined opposite) protects children from the following: Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping cough (Pertussis), HiB (Haemophilus influenzae B), Polio, Meningitis C, Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

Are vaccines safe?

The vaccines used in Ireland are safe. All medicines can cause side effects, but with vaccines these are usually mild, like a sore arm or leg or a slight fever. Serious side effects to vaccines are extremely rare.

Research from around the world shows that immunisation is the safest way to protect your child's health. Your doctor or nurse can discuss the risks with you before giving your child their vaccines.

All the recommended vaccines used to protect children in Ireland are licensed by the Irish Medicines Board or the European Medicines Evaluation Agency. They are allowed to be used only after they have been shown to be both effective and safe.

Where can I get my child immunised?

The HSE recommends that all parents bring their children for immunisation, which is free from your GP. If you have any more questions or need more information, you can visit the HSE website – www.immunisation.ie, or speak to your GP or your Public Health Nurse in your Local Health Centre.

You can also call the HSE infoline: 1850 24 1850, for more information.

Childhood Immunisations

AGE TO IMMUNISE	TYPE OF VACCINE
BIRTH	BCG tuberculosis vaccine (usually given in maternity hospitals)
2 MONTHS <i>Free from your GP</i>	5 in 1: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough (Pertussis), HiB (Haemophilus influenzae B), Polio (Inactivated poliomyelitis) Men C (Meningococcal C)
4 MONTHS <i>Free from your GP</i>	5 in 1: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough (Pertussis), HiB (Haemophilus influenzae B), Polio (Inactivated poliomyelitis) Men C (Meningococcal C), Diphtheria
6 MONTHS <i>Free from your GP</i>	5 in 1: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough (Pertussis), HiB (Haemophilus influenzae B), Polio (Inactivated poliomyelitis) Men C (Meningococcal C)
12 TO 15 MONTHS <i>Free from your GP</i>	MMR: Measles, Mumps, Rubella HiB Booster (Haemophilus influenzae B)
4 TO 5 YEARS <i>Free in School</i>	4 in 1: Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Polio MMR: Measles, Mumps, Rubella
11 TO 12 YEARS <i>Free in School</i>	MMR: Measles, Mumps, Rubella (not necessary if two doses have already been given)
10 TO 14 YEARS <i>Free in School</i>	BCG (if not already protected)
11 TO 14 YEARS <i>Free in School</i>	Td: Tetanus, Diphtheria

Nursing Home Services and Subvention

The HSE provides a wide range of services for older people, including in-patient acute services, step down and convalescent care, day services, rehabilitation, community services, home care and home helps.

The simplest way to enquire about or access these services is to speak to either your GP, or to ask at your Local Health Centre to speak to the Public Health Nurse.

The HSE also pays a subvention, or a subsidy, toward the cost of a private nursing home beds. The subvention is designed to help with nursing homes costs and is subject to a means test, and a dependency test – meaning how much care the person needs.

You can apply for Nursing Home Subvention from your Local Health Office. The HSE will then carry out a means test and an assessment of dependency. The dependency assessment is carried out on behalf of the HSE by a doctor, nurse, occupational therapist or physiotherapist. The applicant's medical condition is taken into account and the assessment also includes an evaluation of their ability to carry out the tasks of daily living and of the level of social support available to the person. The kinds of factors assessed might include: mobility, ability to care for oneself, communications, quality of memory etc.

The nursing home regulations also permit the HSE to take account of a person's assets and income in determining entitlement to nursing home subvention. Where a person has assets they may have to use these to fund nursing home care.

A Fair Deal – The Nursing Home Care Support Scheme

The Minister for Health and Children has announced plans for a significant change in how nursing home care is provided and paid for. From January 1, 2008, the current subvention and public nursing home schemes will be replaced by a new Nursing Home Care Support Scheme, which is designed to ensure that everyone who enters a nursing home, public or private, pays a fair portion of their income as a contribution towards the cost of their care. For more information on this scheme, contact your Local Health Office, or the HSE Infoline on: 1850 24 1850.

Long-Term Illness Scheme

What is the Long-Term Illness Scheme?

If you have certain long-term illnesses or disabilities, you can apply to join the Long-Term Illness Scheme.

How do I qualify?

You must be ordinarily resident in Ireland and hold a PPSN. You qualify if you have one of the illnesses or disabilities listed below:

- Acute Leukaemia
- Cerebral Palsy
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Diabetes Insipidus
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Epilepsy
- Haemophilia
- Hydrocephalus
- Mental handicap
- Mental Illness (in a person under 16 years of age)
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Muscular Dystrophies
- Parkinsonism
- Phenylketonuria
- Spina Bifida
- Conditions arising from the use of Thalidomide.

There is no income requirement or means test. If you have a medical condition that is not listed above, you should consider applying for a Medical Card or a GP Visit Card.

If you have one of these conditions, you will be supplied with a Long-Term Illness book. This booklet allows you to get drugs, medicines, and medical and surgical appliances directly related to your illness, free of charge. It does not depend on your income or other circumstances and is separate from the Medical Card Scheme and the GP Visit Card Scheme.

How do I apply?

The Long-Term Illness Scheme application form is available from your Local Health Office. Your doctor or consultant will sign the form to confirm your condition and list your medication.

You can also call the HSE infoline: 1850 24 1850, for more information.

Dental Services

The HSE provides Dental Services to children under 6 and children attending Primary School, to Medical Card holders and to EU residents for emergency treatment. Some services are provided by dentists employed by the HSE, and some by private dentists.

What Dental Services are available for children?

Pre-school children attending primary schools can be referred for Dental Treatment from a child health service or following a routine school visit. Children attending primary school are screened in 2nd, 4th and 6th class and are referred for treatment if necessary to the local dental clinic. Emergency services are also available to all school going children.

What Dental Services are provided for Medical Card holders?

Medical Card holders can get a list of participating Private Dental Practitioners from their Local Health Office or HSE Dental Clinic. Once the dentist has accepted you as a patient you must bring your medical card with you when attending on your first visit. The following treatments are available with a Medical Card: Fillings, Cleaning/polishing, Extractions, Dentures and Root Canal Treatment.

What if my child needs braces?

Some children where necessary are referred onto their Orthodontic Clinic for further treatment. This referral is from the Principal Dental Surgeon in the health centre and Orthodontic Treatment is free.

Can I get tax relief on dental expenses?

If you do not have a medical card and have to pay for dental services from a private practitioner, you may claim tax relief for certain specialised dental treatments. The form is called Med 2 and can be obtained from the Tax Office.

Can my PRSI help pay for dental treatment?

Treatment Benefit is a scheme in Ireland operated by the Department of Social and Family Affairs. Under this scheme, contributions made by people through PRSI can be accessed to repay some of the cost of dental treatment. Ask your Dentist for more information.

To learn more about Dental Services in your area, contact your Local Health Office. You can also call the HSE infoline: 1850 24 1850, for more information.

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance

What is the Back to School and Footwear Allowance?

The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance is in place to help families meet the cost of uniforms and footwear for students in Ireland attending school. The scheme operates from June 1st to September 30th each year.

How do I qualify?

To be eligible for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, the parent or guardian must meet one of the following conditions:

- In receipt of a social welfare payment (including Family Income Supplement) or a HSE payment
- Taking part in an approved employment scheme
- Taking part in a recognised education or training course
- Involved in an Area Partnership Scheme
- Attending a FÁS, Fáilte Ireland or LES training scheme.

The child/student must also be aged between 2 and 22 years before 1st October of the year you apply and must be in full-time education at a recognised school or college.

Where a person is on short term social welfare payment, qualifying children must be aged 2-17 years.

Is the allowance means tested?

Yes, the HSE Community Welfare Office in your Local Health Centre will assess your income and decide if you are eligible. Your total household income means your main social welfare or HSE payment and any other income you may have including wages, before tax but excluding PRSI and reasonable travel expenses.

Any income you get by way of rent or mortgage interest supplement, Family Income Supplement, Blind Welfare Allowance, Rehabilitative Training Allowance, rehabilitative employment (up to €120 per week), Home Help, Domiciliary Care Allowance and Mobility Allowance is not counted.

How do I apply?

You should apply to the Community Welfare Officer (CWO) at your Local Health Centre. You can also call the HSE infoline: 1850 24 1850, for more information.

Supplementary Welfare

What is Supplementary Welfare Allowance?

Supplementary Welfare Allowance provides a basic weekly allowance to eligible people who have little or no income. In addition, payments can also be made in respect of urgent or exceptional needs.

What types of payments are made under the scheme?

Basic Payments

If you have no income you may be entitled to basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance. If you have claimed a social welfare payment but it has not yet been paid, and you have no other income, you may qualify for Supplementary Welfare Allowance while you are awaiting payment.

Supplements

If your income, whether from basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance or otherwise, is too low to meet certain special needs, you may be granted a weekly supplement. Special needs may include rent/mortgage payments or exceptional expenses due to ill-health. The amount of any supplement will be decided by the Health Service Executive based on your circumstances.

Exceptional Needs Payments

These are paid to assist with essential, once-off expenses in exceptional circumstances. This is at the discretion of the HSE, and depending on your circumstances, may be paid to assist with the cost of essential household equipment, funeral expenses or any other unforeseen large expenses.

Rent and Mortgage Interest Supplements

The HSE can also assist with rent or mortgage interest payments for people on very low incomes. This may depend on:

- the size of your accommodation and your family size
- if you have applied for or have been refused Local Authority housing
- the cost of your accommodation
- whether you are sharing your accommodation

When and how do I apply?

You can apply to the Community Welfare Officer at your local Health Centre. You can also call the HSE infoline: 1850 24 1850, for more information.

An Introduction to our Community Services

The following are some of the main services that are managed for you by your Local Health Office.

Local Health Office

Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co. Cork
Tel: (028) 40476

GP Out of Hours Service, SouthDoc: 1850 335 999

This is a service to provide you and your family with access to family doctor services outside of normal hours. This service operates from 6pm to 12pm Monday to Friday, and from 1pm to 8am on Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

Public Health Nursing

There are Public Health Nurses working from every Health Centre in our area, who provide a range of services to people in their homes. They are often your first contact with the HSE, as they visit new mothers to check on them and their babies, and provide advice on care, feeding and development. They also provide aftercare to people who have been discharged from hospital and a range of other services. Contact your Public Health Nurse at your Health Centre, or call (028) 40429.

Social Work

The Social Work team in the Local Health Office is responsible for providing support to children and families in this community. In cases where children are at risk of harm through abuse, Child Protection Social Workers have an important role in providing care, assessment and follow up to those children and their families, through the Fostering and Child Protection Teams.
Tel: (028) 40447/40456/40455

Child Health

Area Medical Teams visit schools in the area to give vaccinations like the MMR, Meningitis C, Rubella etc. They also work with Public Health Nurses to check on a child's development from birth onwards, through a series of standard regular checks. Area Medical Officers also play an important role in managing outbreaks of illness like measles or mumps in the area. You can contact the Area Medical Officers at (028) 40419.

Chiropody Services

Chiropody Services are available for medical card holders, appointments can be arranged through your Public Health Nurse. Tel: (028) 40429

Community Welfare

Community Welfare Officers work from Health Centres in the area, and can give financial support to those in need, in the form of rent supplement or supplementary welfare allowance. They also advise on entitlements and can help with filling in forms like the Medical Card, GP Visit Card etc. Contact your Health Centre.

Disability Services

The Local Health Office works with a range of voluntary services in the area to provide care, training and development for children and adults with learning or physical disability. Tel: (028) 40417

General Practitioner Services

There are a large number of GPs working in the area, and your Local Health Office can help you to find a GP, or can advise on entitlements such as a Medical Card or GP Visit Card. For a list of GPs in our area, call (028) 40476.

Anderson, June, The Surgery, Rosscarbery	(023) 48255
Bell, Ian, Western Road, Clonakilty, Co.Cork	(023) 35102
Burke, D.J., The Surgery, Rosscarbery	(023) 48255
Casey, Sean, Main Street, Macroom	(026) 41281
Cotter, Denis, The Surgery, Bantry	(027) 50574
Cotter, Jeremy, The Surgery, Glengarriff	(027) 63300
Creagh, Don, Medical Centre, Skibbereen	(028) 23456
Creedon, C.D., Main Street, Dunmanway	(023) 45289
Cronin, Peter, 17 Main Street, Macroom	(026) 41088
Cunneen, Michael, Cregane, Timoleague	(023) 46186
Dekkers, M.A., Reenroe, Drimoleague, Co. Cork	(028) 31364
Dennehy, Tom, Bridge Street, Bantry	(027) 50892
Gleeson, C.P., Millcove, Castletownbere	(027) 70209
Glisson, Jacqui, The Surgery, Castletownbere	(027) 70848
Harte, Carmel, 39 Wolfe Tone Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	(023) 34171
Hayes, Yvonne, Western Road, Clonakilty	(023) 35102
Kelleher, Cornelius, Railway View, Macroom	(026) 41783
Kingston, Michael, Newtown, Bantry	(027) 50574
Lane, Martin, Millbrook Medical Centre, Bandon	(023) 41132
Lyne, John, Castletownbere, Co. Cork	(027) 70053
McNamara, Michael, Main Street, Drimoleague	(028) 31222
Michael, Philip, Millbrook Medical Centre, Bandon	(023) 41132
Moloney, Thomas, 39 Wolfe Tone Street, Clonakilty	(023) 34171
Morgan, C. Dromusta, Drimoleague, Co. Cork	(028) 31166
Morris, Aisling, Medical Centre, Glengarriff, Co. Cork	(027) 63300
Murphy, Matt, The Surgery, The Square, Bantry	(027) 50504
Murphy, P.J., 11 Oliver Plunkett Street, Bandon	(023) 42253
Murray, Sean, The Surgery, Clonakilty	(023) 33386
O'Brien, Liam, Tawnies Lower, Clonakilty	(023) 33604
O'Connell, Brian, Carrig-na-Mara, Goleen	(028) 35148
O'Connell, John, Sackville Street, Dunmanway	(023) 45036
O'Connor, Evelyn, Western Rd, Clonakilty	(023) 35102

O'Connor, Larry, Colla Road, Schull	(028) 28120
O'Donnell, Thomas, Dunmanway	(023) 45131
O'Donovan, Sean, Gurteenroe, Macroom	(026) 41088
O'Neill, Jane, Oakacre, Ballineen	(023) 47106
O'Neill, Mary, The Medical Centre, Skibbereen	(028) 23456
O'Reilly, Fiona, 5 Wolfe Tone Way, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	(023) 21731
O'Shaughnessy, Gerard, The Medical Centre, Skibbereen	(028) 23456
Perrott, Oriel, Medical Centre, Larkin St, Clonakilty	(023) 33386
Quigley, C.G., Oakacre, Ballineen, Co. Cork	(023) 47106
Quigley, Fionnuala, Oakacre, Ballineen	(023) 47106
Quirke, Helen, The Medical Centre, Skibbereen	(028) 23456
Quirke, J.C., The Surgery, Clonakilty	(023) 33386
Twomey-Bell, Ann, Bridge Street, Skibbereen	(028) 21765
Wickham, Mary, The Surgery, The Square, Bantry	(027) 50504
Wilson, Mairead, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	(023) 48255
Wineker, Gitte, Marino Medical Centre, Bantry	(027) 50504

Home Help

Home Helps work with vulnerable people in the community, who through illness or disability are in need of help with day to day tasks. A home help might visit for a couple of hours per day, to help with housework, shopping, or sometimes may provide more personal care like help with dressing, bathing etc. You can access this service through your Public Health Nurse or by calling (028) 40590/40483.

GP Visit Cards and Medical Cards

Your Local Health Office looks after applications for Medical Cards, GP Visit Cards and a range of other schemes. If you would like to apply or need help in making an application, or if you just want to know what is available to you, call the Medical Card Section on (028) 40424/3.

Occupational Therapy

These services are provided to people who through illness or disability are in need of support or changes to their lifestyle. Occupational Therapists can advise on any changes that may be needed in the home to support a person with special needs, and on activities that will help a person to regain their independence. Call the OT Department on (028) 40520.

Ophthalmic

Medical Card holders are entitled to Ophthalmic or Eye Testing Services, which you can access by calling (028) 40415.

Physiotherapy

Community Physiotherapy services are provided from the Local Health Office, helping people who have suffered an injury or illness to regain their health or mobility through exercise and movement. To contact the Physiotherapy Service call (027) 52965.

Speech and Language Therapy

Speech and Language Therapy Services are provided for children and adults who need help developing their speech or who have had difficulty in this area. Tel: (028) 40433

Drugs Payment Scheme

Under this scheme no individual or family will have to pay more than 85.00 in the calendar month for approved prescribed drugs, medicines and appliances. Family expenditure covers the nominated adult, his/her spouse (including a person with whom he/she is living as husband or wife) and children under 18 years. Dependants over 18 years and under the age of 23 who are in full time education may also be included.

Once the registration form has been processed each person will receive a plastic swipe card, which should be presented at the pharmacy when having prescriptions filled.

In a situation where an individual or member of the family needs to use more than one pharmacy in the same month receipts from all pharmacies should be submitted and a refund for expenditure in excess of 85.00 will be made. This limit may be changed by the Government at Budget time. Tel: (028) 40587

Hardship Scheme

This scheme involves the provision of medicines, medical and surgical appliances appropriate to the treatment of their condition to persons with full eligibility (i.e. medical card holders) and persons suffering from a long term prescribed illness, who are not able to provide these requirements for themselves. The medicines/appliances must be verified by the Health Board, that it is consistent with the treatment of the condition. Persons in receipt of a General Medical Services (GMS) card and who are in need are eligible. Tel: (028) 40477

Long Term Illness Schemes

Section 59 (3) of the Health Act 1970 allows for persons who are not holders of a medical card or Drug Payment Scheme Card and who suffer from a condition which is designated as a long-term illness to obtain prescribed drugs and medicines and medical and surgical appliances, in relation to that condition, free of charge. A Long-Term Illness Book may be held in conjunction with a Drugs Payment Scheme Card in relation to their Long Term Illness condition.

Restricted Long Term Illness book may be issued to Medical Card Holders where items are not available under the General Medical Services Scheme.

If you or any of your dependents suffer from any of the following illnesses:

- Acute Leukamemia
- Haemophilia
- Parkinsonism
- Diabetes Insipidus
- Phenylketonuria
- Malfunctions or abnormalities attributable to use of the drug Thalidomide
- Muscular Dystrophies
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Mental Handicap
- Spina Bifida
- Epilepsy
- Mental Illness (persons under 16 yrs of age)
- Diabetes Melitus
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Cerebral Palsy
- Hydrocephalus

You should apply to your local Health Board office for an application form. If you or your dependant is deemed eligible you will be supplied with a Long Term Illness Book. This book lists the drugs and medicines to which you will be entitled to free of charge from your retail pharmacist. This book should be presented to your pharmacist each time you need a supply of the listed drugs and medicines. Tel: (028) 40477

High-Tech Medicines Scheme

Arrangements were introduced in October 1996 for the supply and dispensing of high-tech medicinal products through community (retail) pharmacies. The new arrangements are designed to provide an accessible and quality community based service to patients, ensuring the active professional involvement of community pharmacists in the dispensing of high-tech medicines.

Services Provided

The patient nominates a community pharmacy from which he/she wishes to obtain high-tech medicines. Health Boards have designated officers who have specific responsibility for liaising between hospitals, health boards and community pharmacists in the operation of this scheme. The Department of

Health and Children and the Pharmaceutical Contractors' Committee review the list of medicinal products on a regular basis. The community pharmacist claims a patient care fee from the G.M.S. (Payments) Board. Access is for all persons prescribed a High -Tech Drug by a medical consultant. Tel: (021) 492 1870

Maternity and Infant Scheme (including Home Birth Grants Service)

Under Section 62 of the Health Act 1970 women are entitled to medical, surgical and midwifery services in respect of motherhood.

Services Provided

- General Practitioner Services - at least six ante-natal examinations plus two post natal visits for the first pregnancy and seven ante-natal visits plus two post natal visits for the second and subsequent pregnancy (two week baby check and a six week mother and baby check). Tel: (028) 40479
- Hospital Services - a woman is entitled to free hospital treatment for all care required in connection with her pregnancy as a public patient.
- Home Births - where the HSE South is not in a position to provide Midwifery Service from their own resources a Statutory Fee (2150.00) plus travelling expenses is paid to a private registered Midwife where available.
- An application form is available at Community Services Headquarters and General Practitioner's Surgeries. The application form is completed by the expectant mother and is signed by the contracting GP of her choice who has an agreement with the HSE South to provide such services.
- In relation to Home Births Grants, the HSE South must receive notification of intention to have a home birth and the receipt from the midwife for fees charged must be submitted to the HSE South. A list of midwives who have notified their intention to practice privately in the Board's area is available from the Community Services Public Health Nursing Department. Tel: (028) 40429

Medical and Surgical Aids and Appliances

A general definition of Aids & Appliances includes equipment to facilitate mobility, or functional independence, or to maintain people in their own homes. Persons who hold a valid medical card, or long term illness card or persons covered under the Health (Amendment) Act 1996 are entitled, following an assessment by an Occupational Therapist, PHN or Physiotherapist, to the loan (either long or short term) of medical surgical aids and appliances which will enable them to function independently or facilitate their well being. Referrals are principally made through the Board's Community Nursing and Therapy Services, as well as Acute Services and "voluntary" disability service providers. Tel: (028) 40477

Dental Services

All children, under 12, are given dental checks and follow up if required from the local Dental Clinic. This service is usually accessed in the first place through a routine school visit.

Bantry Hospital	(027) 51795
Castletownbere, Main Street	(027) 70208
Clonakilty	(023) 33387
Dunmanway	(023) 55456
Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen	(028) 40437

Area Headquarters

Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen	(028) 40400
Community Medical Services	(028) 40419
Community Welfare Officers Services	(028) 40425
Community Workers Services	(028) 40481
Physiotherapy Services	(027) 52965
Public Health Nurse Services	(028) 40429
Social Workers Services	(028) 40456
Child & Family Psychology Service	(028) 40583
Administrator/Schemes	(028) 40477

Health Centres in West Cork

Bantry Marino St.	(027) 50676
Bantry Community Welfare Officer	(027) 50538
Bere Island	(027) 75003
Cape Clear Nurse Res	(028) 39109
Castletownbere Public Health Nurse	(027) 70353
Castletownbere Community Welfare Officer	(027) 70628
Clonakilty	(023) 32764
Clonakilty Community Welfare Officer	(023) 33409
Dunmanway	(023) 55410
Dunmanway Community Welfare Officer	(023) 45682
Eyeries	(027) 74374
Goleen	(028) 35014
Leap	(028) 33255
Schull	(028) 28398
Skibbereen, Coolnagarrane	(028) 40429
Skibbereen Community Welfare Officer (Market St.)	(028) 21047

Registration Services – Births, Deaths & Marriages

Hospital Grounds Skibbereen

Tel: (028) 40570/1

Hospitals

Local, Regional and National Hospitals are listed here. Unless you are attending A&E in an emergency, most people visit their GP for advice and referral, before attending hospital. Outside of office hours, you can access GP services through GP Out Of Hours Services, SouthDoc: 1850 335 999.

Cork Hospitals

Bantry General Hospital	(027) 50133
Bantry Hospital Psychiatric Unit	(027) 52970
Cork University Hospital	(021) 454 6400
Erinville Maternity Hospital	(021) 427 5211
St. Finbarr's Hospital	(021) 496 6555
St. Mary's Orthopaedic Hospital	(021) 430 3264

National Hospitals

St James's Hospital, St James's Street, Dublin 8	(01) 410 3000
Tallaght Hospital, Dublin 24	(01) 414 2000
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Eccles Street, Dublin 7	(01) 803 2000
Beaumont Hospital, PO Box 1297, Beaumont Road, Dublin 9	(01) 809 3000/837 7755
Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown, Dublin 15	(01) 646 5000
St Columille's Hospital, Loughlinstown, Co Dublin	(01) 282 5800
Naas General Hospital, Naas, Co Kildare	(045) 897 221
Hume Street Hospital, Hume Street, Dublin 2	(01) 676 6935/6936/6937
Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Adelaide Road, Dublin 2	(01) 664 4600
Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, Dublin 12	(01) 409 6100
National Children's Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin 24	(01) 414 2000
Children's University Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin 1	(01) 878 4200
Coombe Women's Hospital, Dolphin's Barn, Dublin 8	(01) 408 5200
National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, Dublin 2	(01) 637 3100
The Rotunda Hospital, Parnell Street, Dublin 1	(01) 873 0700

Hospice Care

Hospice Care is provided to people and families in the last days of their lives.

It is a sensitive and holistic service, delivered either in a hospice or at home and designed to give comfort and dignity. Tel: (027) 53433

Services for Older People

The HSE provides a broad range of services for older people in our community, including in-patient acute services, step down and convalescent care, day services, rehabilitation, community services, home care and home helps.

Tel: (028) 40429

Day Care Centres

Bantry	(027) 52455
Castletownbere	(027) 70737
Clonakilty	(023) 34606
Dunmanway	(023) 45621
Skibbereen	(028) 40454

Hospitals and Homes for Older Persons

This is a list of the public nursing homes and long stay facilities in the area.

There are also a large number of private nursing homes registered with the HSE. The registered Nursing Homes in the West Cork Area are:

Private Nursing Homes

Fairfield Nursing Home, Quarry Road, Drimoleague	(028) 31881
Old School House, Church Cross, Skibbereen	(028) 38530
Deerpark Nursing Home, Seaview, Bantry	(027) 52711
Skibbereen Residential Care Centre, Baltimore Road, Skibbereen	(028) 23617
Golden Meadows Nursing Home, Clonakilty	(023) 35198
St. Paul's Nursing Home, Bushmount, Clonakilty	(023) 33991

Community Hospitals

Castletownbere Community Hospital	(027) 70004
Clonakilty Community Hospital (Mt Carmel)	(023) 33205
Dunmanway Community Hospital	(023) 45102
Schull Community Hospital	(028) 28120
Skibbereen Community Hospital	(028) 21677

Mental Health

It is estimated that one in four of us will experience some mental health problems in our lifetime, from a low period, to more serious depression, to a small number who will experience severe mental health problems. If you feel persistently sad, have trouble sleeping or experience unexplained aches and pains, you should visit your GP for some advice. Most people are treated by the GP alone, unless more support, for example, therapy services, is required, in which case you may be referred to some of the following day and hospital services.

Bantry Hospital Acute Unit	(027) 52970
Cork University Hospital GF Unit	(021) 492 2585
Skibbereen Section Headquarters	(028) 21077
St. Davids Resource Centre, Clonakilty Hospital	(023) 33297

Community Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Services

Child Care Information Unit	(021) 492 38 26
Dept of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	(021) 492 78 25

Addiction Services

Treatment Centre – Non residential

Arbour House Treatment Centre, St. Finbarr's Hospital,
Douglas Road, Cork.
Tel: (021) 496 8933

Community Counselling & Advisory Service –East Cork

C/o Arbour House Treatment Centre,
St. Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, Cork.
Tel: (021) 496 8933

Community Counselling & Advisory Service – North Cork City

Counselling & Advisor Service, 10 Church Street,
Off Shandon Street, Cork.
Tel: (021) 421 2382

Community Counselling & Advisory Service – Kerry

Counselling & Advisory Service, Block F, Ground Floor,
Edward Court, Edward Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Tel: (066) 718 4968

Community Counselling & Advisory Service – West Cork
Counselling & Advisory Service Medical Centre,
Market Street, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.
Tel: (028) 23456

Sexually Transmitted Disease Treatment GUM

Sexually Transmitted Disease Treatment Clinic
Victoria Hospital
Tel: (021) 496 6844

AIDS Liaison Nurse STD Clinic
Tel: (021) 432 0450

Disability Services

Cork Intellectual Disability & Autism Services
Area Headquarters Blackpool
Tel: (021) 492 7104

Special Projects and Social Inclusion Services

Suicide Helpline

Confidential advice and support for those who are feeling suicidal.
Open 6-10pm daily.
Freephone: 1800 742 745

Suicide Bereavement Support Service

Confidential advice and support for those who have lost someone
through suicide.
Tel: 087 798 6944

Youth Health Service

A free service for under 25s.
73 Shandon Street, Cork City
Tel: (021) 422 04 90/1
Email: YHS@mailp.hse.ie

Farm & Rural Stress Helpline

Confidential advice and support for people living in a rural area.
Open daily from 6-10pm.
Freephone: 1800 742 645
Email: farmandruralstress@mailp.hse.ie

Environmental Health

West Cork Community Services Office

Tel: (028) 40489

Food Microbiology Laboratory

Tel: (021) 492 3308

Appeals

The Appeals Office is your assurance that decisions made by the HSE are correct and fair. If you apply for a service and are unsuccessful, you have the right to appeal that decision, and to have it reviewed.

Tel: 1850 742 000

Freedom of Information

The HSE is covered by the Freedom of Information Act 1999, meaning that records held by the HSE can be applied for, and if a range of criteria are met, can be released to the public. Personal Information, like medical records, can ONLY be released to that person alone. To make a request for a record to be released under this Act, contact 1850 742 000.