

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin Cúram Sláinte Pobail Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara

Head of Service, Primary Care
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow
Community Healthcare
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare
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7th January 2020

Deputy Sean Sherlock Dáil Eireann, Dublin 2.

PQ 52911/19

To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on patient transport in the past year in the Kildare West Wicklow CHO7 area; if the amount increased; and the criteria used to select patients for transport - Sean Sherlock.

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Primary Care Patient Transport expenditure from January to November 2019 was €78,798.51. It is estimated with receipt of December invoices this expenditure will be €85,000.00. There was a reduction in expenditure in 2019 to remain within budget in line with the Health Service Executive's 2019 Service Plan.

Eligibility Criteria:

A person for whom Patient Transport is requested must fit into at least one of the categories outlined below:

A – Where a patient's medical condition impacts on their mobility to such an extent that they would be unable to access healthcare and/or it would be detrimental to the patient's condition or recovery to travel by any other means.

B – Where the medical condition of the patient is such that they require the skills or support of healthcare staff on their journey and/or it would be detrimental to the patient's condition or recovery to travel by any other means.

There is no statutory requirement for the HSE to provide Patient Transport Services. Limited patient transport services are provided on a discretionary basis for journeys between HSE or HSE funded healthcare facilities for the purposes of receiving on going non-emergency, non-urgent, planned, medical care.

In order to remain within budget, this service has been reviewed and acute treatment appointments are being prioritised.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mary O'Kelly Head of Service Primary Care