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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

Health Service Executive

Deputy Margaret Murphy O' Mahony TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Telephone 353 56 7784100
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26th April 2019

PQ10750/19*

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients that have availed of the cross border initiative; the procedures they underwent; if they have been reimbursed; the overall cost of each procedure in 2018, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Murphy O' Mahony,

Thank you for your PQ above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

In general the Cross Border Directive (CBD) allows a public patient in Ireland opt to avail of necessary healthcare in another EU/EEA country which he/she would have been entitled to in Ireland. The patient pays for the healthcare upfront and is reimbursed at the cost of the treatment abroad or the cost of the treatment in Ireland, whichever is the lesser.

The table below, provides the information on levels of activity under the scheme since its inception in June 2014. As you can see there is an ever increasing volume of patients accessing healthcare abroad under the HSE CBD and we expect this trend to continue in 2019 also.

Activity Description	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
No of forms issued by the NCP	37	1594	2515	4081	5166
No of queries to the NCP	94	4591	5571	4828	3248
No of reimbursements processed	7	150	1025	2011	3763
No of applications for Prior authorisation processed	30	219	324	1219	1485
Cost of reimbursements	€29,264.79	€585,862.99	€2,499,967.00	€4,433,642.36	€11,842,999.84

In relation to your request for information on the procedures being accessed, I regret we do not collate that data in the format you have requested and therefore, a list of individual procedures is not available. However, the table below outlines the most common specialities accessed by patients have availed of outside the state under the HSE CBD.

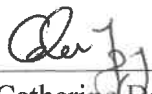
Most common specialities accessed abroad		
Orthopaedic	Orthodontic	Ophthalmology
ENT	Gynaecology	Neurology

Due to the significantly increasing activity of the office year on year since 2014, there is currently a significant backlog of applications and reimbursements to be processed. In this regard, we are unable to provide data as comprehensively as we would like. We estimate that approximately 3000 claims are currently outstanding and awaiting processing and this documentation is not included in the figures presented above. We are currently working through the documentation in chronological order and claims received in January are currently being processed.

In relation to the cost of procedures, as above, we do not collate data per procedure, however, as outlined in the first table above, the total value of claims reimbursed under the scheme in 2018 was €11,842,999.84. It should be noted that the maximum cost of each procedure to the HSE is as per the reimbursement value published in the DRG ready reckoner published on the CBD webpage.

If you have any queries, or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0872668759 or via catherinet.donohoe@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Donohoe

A/Assistant National Director