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06/06/2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 20978/19
To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that lymphedema patients are being charged for lymphedema garments which are essential garments for their treatment (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details supplied: previously these garments were provided by the health service as part of the treatment plan, but not patients are being asked to pay for them

-Louise O'Reilly

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

It is acknowledged that currently the provision of lymphedema compression garments varies depending on the location of the lymphedema services and resources available for the provision of the service
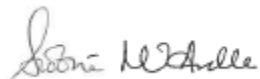In a number of acute hospital settings, garments are provided to all patients. The number of garments issued varies across these services with some providing two garments every 6 months and some providing the first garment.

In primary care settings, garments are provided free of charge to medical card holders only. The number of compression garments provided for medical card holders also varies depending on the Community Healthcare Organisation. .

The variation in the provision of lymphedema garments is currently being addressed through the Community Funded Schemes National Service Improvement Programme.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations