



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Pearse Doherty TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

15th December 2020

PQ 40349/20* "To ask the Minister for Health if it is considered necessary to travel to the UK under the cross border directive for consultations during the Covid-19 crisis; if it is permitted during the Covid-19 crisis to accept an offer of an online video consultation by a UK consultant; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Doherty,

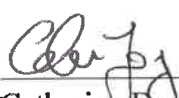
Thank you for your PQ above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the HSE introduced guidelines in respect of use of telemedicine/video conferencing with patients in place of in person consultations. The guidelines are very comprehensive and recognise that the use of telemedicine/video conferencing may only be used in certain circumstances e.g. in place of an outpatient attendance or an outpatient attendance in advance of a day case procedure. Telemedicine and video conferencing may not be used in place of an in-person consultation prior to an inpatient episode of care. Likewise the use of telemedicine and video conferencing as it applies to healthcare in Ireland equally applies when accessing healthcare in the UK. A patient and or his/her referring doctor should ensure any use of telemedicine or video conferencing is conducted in line with the HSE guidelines whether the consultation is with a consultant in Ireland or abroad.

In respect of use of telemedicine or video conferencing same are not eligible for reimbursement under the Treatment Abroad Scheme or Cross Border Directive scheme. A patient using telemedicine/video conferencing must ensure he/she is in a position to demonstrate that he/she had a virtual consultation which complied with the HSE guidelines such that the video conference can be used to demonstrate compliance with public patient pathways for the purposes of CBD.

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