



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

Head of Service, Primary Care
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7th July, 2020

Deputy Pauline Tully, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question PQ 12386/20:

“To ask the Minister for Health the reason for refusing to purchase a CPAP machine for the treatment of sleep apnea, which costs approximately €800 on the drugs repayment scheme; the reason the same machine is being rented at a cost of around €80 per month, which will ultimately prove a more expensive option in the medium to long term; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter, and the following outlines the position for CHO 1.

Patients with GMS entitlement are prescribed CPAP/Bipap machines by Respiratory Consultants in our acute hospitals. There are two suppliers nationally contracted by the HSE for the provision of such devices. A Respiratory Consultant when issuing a prescription for such a machine will identify the type of machine & the supplier to be used.

The HSE have a National Framework Agreement for the provision of Respiratory Sleep Therapy which includes the provision of all equipment outlined by the HSE. All machines are rented as per the nationally contracted prices and such rental includes the costs of servicing, the supply and replacement of consumables, on site risk assessments and education of patient and family in equipment use. This ensures safety for the client in that the machine functions appropriately and the correct consumables for the particular machine are used.

The majority of clients prescribed these machines tend to be require them long term and should any recommendation to purchase these machines be accepted, this would present a significant saving to the HSE. Whilst it could be argued that the purchase of the machine would pay back the initial investment within one year, the additional consideration given to the logistics around ongoing servicing requirements, the supply and cost of consumables makes rental a better proposition for the HSE. I can also confirm that CHO 1 adheres to this national position.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dermot Monaghan,
Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
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c.c. John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO 1
Patrick Lynch, Primary Care Operations