



Oifig an Leas-Stiúrthóir Ginearálta-Oibríochtaí  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'  
Baile Átha Cliath 8

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21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Deputy Jackie Cahill  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ Ref: 22183/20**

To ask the Minister for Health the transport services and subsidies available to persons that have various ailments and have to travel to different medical appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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Dear Deputy Cahill,

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.

While there is no statutory requirement for the HSE to provide Patient Transport Services, transport services can be provided on a discretionary basis. Examples of cases where transport services can be provided include where a patient's medical condition impacts to such an extent that necessitates the use of Patient Transport Services, and where the cost of travelling to a service would cause undue financial hardship to the patient.

The affordability of such services, which must be within financial limits of local Community Healthcare Organisations, must ultimately be made by the budget holder within the Community Healthcare Organisation. Such decisions must also be made in line with other related policies and legislation.

To avail of transport services a person's medical needs must be assessed by a Health Care Professional (e.g. General Practitioner).

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne O'Connor'.

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Anne O'Connor  
Chief Operations Officer