



Primary Care Reimbursement Service
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Tel: 01- 8647100

Bernard J. Durkan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

25th September, 2020

PQ: 24102/20

To ask the Minister for Health the degree to which the time taken to process medical cards is being reduced; if cancer patients continue to receive special treatment in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Bernard J. Durkan

Dear Deputy Durkan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 24102/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Medical Card applications that are fully completed to a degree that enables a comprehensive assessment of eligibility are processed within 15 days.

Medical Card eligibility is primarily based on an assessment of means and is not granted on the basis of any particular medical condition, of itself, (except in limited cases). As part of the application process for Medical Card eligibility, applicants are invited to provide comprehensive information in relation to the costs associated with any illness and the care needs of the applicant and/or any dependants.

In the event that an applicant's means are above the financial threshold for the grant of Medical Card eligibility, other factors outlined in the application in relation to the burden of illness are taken into consideration and eligibility may be granted where it is deemed appropriate to exercise discretion because of the undue burden on the applicant and /or any dependants.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Healy
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service