



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

405200108
HSE South,
Lacken,
Dublin Road,
Kilkenny,
Ireland.

Telephone 353 56 7784100
Fax 353 56 7784388

Deputy Pádraig O'Sullivan TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

23rd July 2021

PQ 21580/21* *"To ask the Minister for Health the reason the accompanying passenger who has to travel with the patient does not have their Covid-19 test which is mandatory covered by the treatment abroad scheme; if he will reconsider same; and if he will make a statement on the matter."*

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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

The HSE TAS allows for a patient to be referred for treatment to the public health system of another EU/EEA member state and the UK where that treatment is not available to the patient within the public health system in Ireland through the issue of form E112/S2.

During the current pandemic, patients have experienced additional requirements to enable the travel abroad specific to individual countries and returning to Ireland e.g. requiring to present a negative Covid-19 test before receiving treatment, quarantining before/after travel etc and in recognition of same the HSE TAS has offered support in this regard.

A patient can access testing for Covid-19 free of charge as provided for by the HSE, and where same is provided in/by the hospital abroad same is provided for under the E112/S2 that is issued to cover their treatment. Where an approved HSE TAS patient pays for a private Covid-19 test as required by the treating hospital abroad, they can claim reimbursement for same from the HSE TAS. A maximum reimbursement of €75 is applicable in this regard.

As you will be aware, the Treatment Abroad Scheme as provided for in EU Regulations and Department of Health and Children Guidelines, does not include a provision for Travel and or Subsistence expenses for patients or their relatives travelling abroad to avail of approved treatments. However, the HSE and specifically the TAS may provide assistance towards reasonable economic air or sea travel fares for patients, and a travelling companion where appropriate.

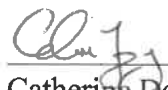
The HSE TAS has no remit to fund additional expenses e.g. accommodation, taxis etc and as per your enquiry; similarly a Covid-19 test; for a companion travelling with the patient are not eligible for funding. The only exception to this is where the companion is a companion whose travel costs are covered under the National Travel Policy e.g. a parent or guardian travelling with a child, etc. As I have not been provided with the identity of the patient I am

unable to confirm if the companion referred to in the question was eligible to have the COVID-19 test funded. If you wish to provide me with this detail I will be happy to revert with clarification specific to the case.

If you wish to provide details of a specific case, I will be happy to review and provide you with a more specific update with regard to their particular claim.

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.