



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

21<sup>st</sup> December 2021

PQ60230/21\* *“To ask the Minister for Health the funding that is available to citizens of Ireland who travelled to the United States of America for cancer treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn,

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

The HSE Treatment Abroad Scheme allows for an Irish based public hospital consultant to refer a public patient to the public system of another EU/EEA member state, Switzerland or the UK for treatment which is not available within the state through the issuing of an E112/S2 form. The scheme is based on Prior Authorisation and a patient and their referring consultant must submit and receive a decision on their application prior to the patient travelling abroad for treatment.

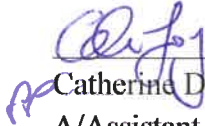
There is no legal basis which entitles patient to funding of treatment in the USA. However, the HSE examines each case on an individual basis. In order to facilitate the evaluation of a request for funding of treatment in the USA, a patient applies for funding using the established Treatment Abroad Scheme application. The general rules of the TAS are used. An application for funding of treatment in the USA will not be considered where there are treatment options in Ireland or the EU/EEA, Switzerland or the UK. The patient must apply in advance and receive a decision prior to any treatment being accessed. The HSE will not be held liable for any costs it has not agreed in advance to fund.

Without a fully completed application being received in the HSE TAS department it is not possible to provide confirmation of whether an application will be/would have been approved. Each application is reviewed on its own merits and a decision is given specific to each case.

If a referring consultant is seeking to apply to the HSE for funding outside the criteria of the TAS e.g. referring to a hospital outside the EU/EEA, Switzerland or the UK, he/she must also include documentary evidence that the treatment is not available in the EU/EEA, Switzerland or the UK and that all efforts they have exhausted in confirming same.

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](mailto:catherinet.donohoe@hse.ie).

Yours sincerely,

  
Catherine Donohoe  
A/Assistant National Director