



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

10th January 2022

Deputy Sean Crowe
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 61834/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the way in which the reimbursement of travel costs for haemodialysis patients is administered; the rate per kilometre; if it is paid through the hospital administering the treatment or centrally by the HSE; the reason some patients are paid monthly and others less frequently; and the timeframe for payment specified by the HSE.

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

Part 1. Way in which the reimbursement of travel costs for haemodialysis patients is administered.

Transport in general is either provided by Taxi or self-drive payment and is administered through each Renal Unit, and the Unit will have their own local operating arrangements for non-emergency patient transport. Hospital renal units have their own local payment system to ensure prompt payment to patients or drivers. The renal unit at each Hospital or HSE Contracted Unit will be best placed to advise patients on the details of their local policies. During the Covid crisis, if a family member/carer or friend is in a position to drive a patient to and from treatment they can claim a reimbursement of €0.30 per km and this payment is administered through each Renal Unit. The patient should talk to their local clinician or nurse manager about their transport arrangements. Local clinicians are best positioned to make transport decisions for their own patients.

Part 2 the rate per kilometre

It has been agreed during the duration of this COVID19 Outbreak, patients will be eligible to claim 30c per kilometre travelling directly to and from the Haemodialysis Parent Renal Unit or HSE Contracted Haemodialysis Unit that is closest to their place of residence. This payment should cover the normal 3 direct trips per week which is 6 journeys that the patients make to their local unit.

Part 3 if it is paid through the hospital administering the treatment or centrally by the HSE

Reimbursement will be administered by each Hospital Renal Unit for all patient journeys directly to and from chronic haemodialysis sessions. The patient should talk to their local clinician or nurse manager about their transport arrangements. Local clinicians are best positioned to make transport decisions for their own patients. Each Parent Renal Unit and HSE Contracted Haemodialysis Unit will have its own local payment system to ensure prompt payment to patients or drivers.


Part 4 the reason some patients are paid monthly and others less frequently

The renal unit at Hospital will be best placed to advise each patient on the details of their local reimbursement policies. Hospital renal units have their own local payment system to ensure prompt payment to patients or drivers. The patient should talk to their local clinician or nurse manager about their transport arrangements. Local clinicians are best positioned to make transport decisions for their own patients.

Part 5 the timeframe for payment specified by the HSE

The renal unit at Hospital is best placed to advise you on the details of their local policies and payment timeframes for transport payments to be reimbursed. Hospital renal units have their own local payment system to ensure prompt payment to patients or drivers.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick O'Connor", is written over a horizontal line.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick O'Connor

General Manager