



Gary Gannon TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

10th February 2021

PQ 4973/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who have applied for the HAA medical card; the number of rejected applications under this scheme; the reasons for rejection; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Gary Gannon”

Dear Deputy Gannon,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 4973/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

If a person contracted Hepatitis C from the administration within Ireland of blood or blood products and have a positive diagnostic test, that person is entitled to a range of services including public in-patient and out-patient hospital services, GP services, all prescribed drugs, medicines and appliances, dental and ophthalmic services, home help, home nursing, counselling services and other services without charge. If the person is eligible, the Hepatitis C Liaison Officer in the relevant HSE area will arrange to issue the person with a Health (Amendment) Act Card (HAA Card), which will make it easier for the person to access these services. A HAA Card is not the same as a Medical Card. The HAA Card is personal to the individual cardholder and does not cover family members (except in the case of access to counselling services). Each person should bring their card with them when availing of services.

There are just over 1,300 HAA cardholders and most of these were issued a number of years ago. There has been a small number of new applications every year for the past few years and the HSE is not aware of any refusals as the criteria for a HAA card is very specific. The application process is dealt with through the National Hepatitis C office and applications should only be submitted to that office. If an individual feels that their case needs to be reviewed they should contact the National Coordinator Hepatitis C, HSE Stewarts Hospital, Mill Lane, Palmerstown, Dublin 20.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



TJ Dunford

Head of Operations; Primary Care.
Community Operations.