

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy David Cullinane TD

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

06/04/2021

PQ 15817-21 To ask the Minister for Health if elderly persons having to travel distances to receive their vaccine will be eligible for reimbursement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Thank you for your query. The provision or arrangement by the HSE of Patient Transport Services (PTS) should be confined to circumstances where the HSE is satisfied that the patient's medical condition warrants the making of arrangements for transport and be satisfied that that the person is not in a position to make or fund his or her own transport arrangements. Where it has been determined that a patient is eligible for a PTS journey provided by the HSE, it should be firstly established if a HSE non ambulance resource is available to carry out the journey.

A person for whom PTS is requested must fit into at least one of the categories outlined below:

- Where a patient's medical condition impacts on their mobility to such an extent that they would be unable to access healthcare and/or it would be detrimental to the patient's condition or recovery to travel by any other means.
- Where the medical condition of the patient is such that they require the skills or support of healthcare staff on their journey and/or where it would be detrimental to the patient's condition or recovery if they were to travel by other means.

People who are housebound and accept the offer of the COVID vaccination will be provided a vaccine and I can advise that this is underway.

The above is per the HSE's Policy for Non Ambulance Patient Transport Services (PTS), which advises that as a rule, patients should be in a position to make their own arrangements for journey unless there are clear medical and/or mobility factors involved. PTS are provided by the HSE on a discretionary basis as opposed to there being a mandatory requirement for provision and there is no statutory requirement for the organisation to provide this service.

I hope this is of assistance.

Yours faithfully

Handwritten signature of James Walsh in black ink.

Pp

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO