



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Danny Healy-Rae TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

21<sup>st</sup> June 2021

PQ23198/21 *“To ask the Minister for Health the funding available for treatment abroad in circumstances (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

*Details Supplied: What funding is made available to people who have Lymes Disease and have to travel to the US for treatment.*

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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

Treatment for Lyme’s Disease is available in Ireland. Where patients wish to access Lyme’s Disease treatment abroad, such access is provided under the provisions of the Cross Border Directive (CBD) or the Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme (NIPHS). In general, the CBD allows patients to access Lyme’s Disease healthcare in another EU/EEA country. The NIPHS allows Lyme’s Disease patients to access necessary care in the private healthcare system of Northern Ireland.

Access to healthcare in the United States of America for Lyme’s disease is outside the legislative healthcare frameworks in Ireland, therefore healthcare in the USA has no eligibility for funding. I regret that these responses may not be what the patient will have wished for and I recommend the patient reverts to his/her treating physician to discuss the options outlined above.

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.