



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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HSE South,  
Lacken,  
Dublin Road,  
Kilkenny,  
Ireland.

Telephone 353 56 7784100  
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Deputy Neale Richmond TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

04<sup>th</sup> October 2021

- PQ45544/21      *“To ask the Minister for Health if the treatment abroad scheme covers Irish citizens travelling to receive cancer treatments not available in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*
- PQ45545/21      *“To ask the Minister for Health if oncology drugs are covered under the treatment abroad scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*
- PQ45546/21      *“To ask the Minister for Health if Irish patients receiving care abroad who have built up significant medical bills can avail of the treatment abroad scheme for their oncology drugs if they are not available in Ireland but are EMA and FDA approved; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy Richmond,

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

The Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) 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 issue of form E112/S2.

In relation to your specific queries:

PQ45544/21

Without a fully completed application being received in the 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 each decision is specific to the individual patient's case.

PQ45545/21



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In the absence of a fully completed application I regret I cannot provide a definitive answer to the query, however, the TAS provides for a patient to be referred to access proven treatment that is not available in Ireland. In general the TAS may not be used to access drug therapies in another EU/EEA country, the UK or Switzerland. There is a specific protocol in the HSE for consultants to seek access to high tech drug therapies for their patients.

PQ45546/21:

The EU Regulation 883/2004 which underpins the TAS is very specific that a patient must apply for and be granted prior authorisation by his/her home country. The HSE cannot be held liable for costs it has not agreed in advance to assume. Therefore it is a fundamental of the Scheme that the patient in conjunction with his/her treating consultant apply and receive Prior Authorisation in advance of travelling abroad for treatment.

Patients may use the provisions of the Cross Border Directive to access healthcare in another EU/EEA country. The patient pays upfront for the treatment and claims reimbursement for the treatment upon return to Ireland. The reimbursement is at the cost of the treatment abroad or the cost of the treatment (or the treatment which would have been) provided in Ireland.

I am genuinely sorry I cannot be more definitive. I recommend the patient reverts to his/her treating consultant in Ireland with regard to the funding options available to him/her with regard to the outline provided 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "PP. Linda Bason".

Catherine Donohoe  
A/Assistant National Director