



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
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27<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Deputy James O'Connor,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 20504/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the areas of the country in which the HSE covers the cost of compression sleeves for breast cancer patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 20505/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the areas of the country in which the HSE covers the cost of compression garments for patients who require them; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- James O'Connor**

Dear Deputy O'Connor,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 20504/22) and (PQ 20505/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Compression garments, including compression sleeves, are provided for eligible clients in all areas of the country. While there is some variation in procedures across different local health areas, in general, eligible people living with lymphedema who require these items are; following assessment and identification of need by a relevant healthcare professional, prescribed these items.

The eligibility for compression garments conforms to those for other health services, and were set out in the Health Act 1970. This act provides for two categories of eligibility for all persons ordinarily resident in the state, i.e. full eligibility (medical card) and limited eligibility (all others).

Those with full eligibility are provided with two compression garments every year. For those with limited eligibility, they are required to purchase the items themselves. They can subsequently seek reimbursement of their costs in line with the limits set out in the Drugs Payment Scheme.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Seán McArt**  
General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations

