



Rose Conway-Walsh, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

26<sup>th</sup> April 2022

PQ: 20745/22

**To ask the Minister for Health the eligibility criteria for a discretionary medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Rose Conway-Walsh**

Dear Deputy Conway-Walsh,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 20745/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

An applicant may not qualify for a medical card based on the means test. But if they have medical expenses, they may qualify for a discretionary medical card. A discretionary medical card gives a client the same services as a means-tested medical card.

The application process is the same for a means-tested medical card. But the applicant can also provide information about their family's medical expenses.

These include:

- GP attendance
- medications or appliances
- hospital treatment

The applicant should include evidence of medical expenses in their application.

Medical expenses include:

- copies of receipts for prescribed medicines
- copies of receipts or bills from their GP, consultant or other healthcare professional
- copies of hospital bills for inpatient stays or attendance at the emergency department

- evidence of purchase or renting healthcare appliances. For example, a CPAP machine or independent living equipment

Medical officers and deciding officers will then assess the application.

Discretionary medical cards are issued for a specific time frame. The time frame will depend on the applicant's circumstances.

The applicant should include a medical report if they want to be assessed for a discretionary medical card.

We might write to ask for a medical report if the applicant has included medical bills in their application.

The medical report can include information from:

- GP
- Hospital consultant
- Public health nurse
- Social worker
- Therapist
- The applicant, their carer or family members

There is a standard medical report template available on our website at <https://www2.hse.ie/services/medical-cards/discretionary-medical-cards.html>.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service