



Patricia Ryan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

22nd July 2022

PQ: 38920/22

To ask the Minister for Health the criteria used to decide an award of a discretionary medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Patricia Ryan

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 38920/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Medical Card eligibility is primarily based on an assessment of means and is not granted on the basis of any particular medical condition, of itself, (except in limited cases). As part of the application process for Medical Card eligibility, applicants are invited to provide comprehensive information in relation to the costs associated with any illness and the care needs of the applicant and/or any dependants.

In the event that an applicant's means are above the financial threshold for the grant of Medical Card eligibility, other factors outlined in the application in relation to the burden of illness are taken into consideration and eligibility may be granted where it is deemed appropriate to exercise discretion because of the undue burden on the applicant and /or any dependants.

Applicants are advised to include a medical report if they want to be assessed for a discretionary medical card. We might write out to an applicant for a medical report if they have included medical bills in their application. In light of medical circumstances, which are submitted as part of an application, a Medical Officer reviews the file. Having given due consideration to all aspects of the application, the outcome of the assessment as to whether eligibility is to be granted or not is decided by the Medical Officer. Discretionary medical cards are issued for a specific time frame. The time frame will depend on the applicant's circumstances.

For more information, please visit our website at the below link, where you can also find a GP medical report form for discretionary medical card applications:

<https://www2.hse.ie/services/schemes-allowances/medical-cards/other-types-of-medical-card/discretionary-medical-cards/>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle', written over a horizontal line.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service