



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

405200108
HSE South,
Lacken,
Dublin Road,
Kilkenny,
Ireland.

Telephone 353 56 7784100
Fax 353 56 7784388

Deputy Peadar Tóibín TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

26th July 2022

PQ40281/22* *“To ask the Minister for Health if any of the transport or accommodation costs of patients who attend the HSE-contracted hospital in Alicante, Spain are covered; and if not, if this health care delivery discriminates against low income families.”*

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question referenced above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

I am enclosing a copy of my response to PQ40280/22 which also refers. The HSE does not have a contract with the hospital in Spain, or indeed any hospital abroad for provision of healthcare for patients under the Cross Border Directive (CBD).

The CBD provides for a patient to choose to access healthcare abroad and submit a claim to the National Contact Point (NCP) office for reimbursement. Reimbursement is at the cost of the healthcare abroad or the cost of the healthcare in Ireland whichever is the lesser. The provisions of the CBD are transposed in all EU and EEA countries. The CBD has not been transposed in Switzerland or the UK. Under the Directive the healthcare system of the home country is not required to assume costs it would not have assumed if the healthcare was provided in the home country. Therefore, travel and accommodation costs are not covered under the scheme.

I hope this addresses your query but if you require any further information or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0872668759 or via catherinet.donohoe@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,


Catherine Donohoe

A/Assistant National Director



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PQ40280/22* *“To ask the Minister for Health the annual cost of the contract that the HSE has entered into with a hospital in Alicante, Spain; the number of years that the contract is for; if there is a per treatment and operation cost; if so, the costs per treatment and operation; if there is an annual cost within the contract irrespective of the number of treatments and operations that are carried out; and if there is a break in the contract or a waiver on costs in cases in which the Spanish government introduces travel restrictions from Ireland due to a future Covid-19 wave.”*

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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

I wish to confirm that contrary to inaccurate and misleading reporting and comment the HSE has not entered into a contract with any healthcare provider abroad for patients to access treatment under the HSE Cross Border Directive scheme.

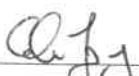
The Directive allows for a patient to choose to access healthcare in another EU/EEA member state, excluding Switzerland and the UK, for healthcare which the patient is entitled to receive in the public healthcare system in Ireland.

The patient chooses the provider abroad, the HSE has no role in regard to same and the HSE CBD has no affiliation with any hospital abroad.

The hospital in Alicante in Spain, is like a number of private hospitals, including other hospitals in Spain, in other EU/EEA member states and indeed in Northern Ireland (under the HSE NIPHS), which Irish patients to choose to access healthcare from. The patient pays for their treatment up front, and submits a claim for reimbursement from the HSE upon return to Ireland. The reimbursement is the cost of the treatment abroad or the cost of the treatment in the public system in Ireland, whichever is the lesser.

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.

Yours sincerely,


Catherine Donohoe
A/Assistant National Director