



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Róisín Shortall TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

02<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

PQ41201/22\* *“To ask the Minister for Health the engagements he has had with a company (details supplied) regarding the opening of a hospital abroad; if funding was provided by the HSE to open this facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

*Details supplied: Healthcare Abroad, Hospital Clinica Benidorm*

PQ41202/22\* *“To ask the Minister for Health if any private companies which assist Irish patients in accessing treatments abroad under the EU Cross Border Directive have been provided funding from the HSE, aside from the reimbursement of patients using those companies services; if so, the amounts paid to each company since the scheme was implemented by year in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

PQ41204/22\* *“To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide in respect of companies which act as a co-between with patients and hospitals in respect of the Cross-Border Directive; the list of all such companies which carry out this role and through which the HSE provide reimbursement for procedures; the regulation, if any, which applies to these companies or the criteria for approval which apply; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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

I can confirm that the HSE has no association with any private company assisting patient access healthcare abroad under the Cross Border Directive (CBD). We refer to these companies as third party providers.

As these are private companies are not required to make themselves known to the HSE, I cannot provide data on how many such companies are in operation. I am aware of at least four such providers providing services to Irish patients.


As indicated above the HSE does not have a relationship with these companies. Under the legislation, the HSE's relationship is with the patients and any reimbursement claimed is reimbursed to the patient who must demonstrate payment to the healthcare provider abroad directly. A payment to a third party provider is not eligible for reimbursement.

In general third party providers provide personal assistance to the patients e.g. logistics, assistance identifying a provider abroad and assistance in ensuring the patient has a properly issued referral letter, an outpatient consultation, etc. to comply with public patient pathways to ensure the patient is eligible reimbursement.

It is advisable that patients using the services of a third party provider are cognisant that a CBD application contains very sensitive personal information and that information should only be shared where appropriate.

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,

  
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Catherine Donohoe  
A/Assistant National Director.