



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
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14th July 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 34662/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the average waiting period for an authorised purchase order for a prosthesis or orthosis; the number of people currently waiting on a prosthesis or orthosis that have been waiting less than 1, 1 to 3, 3 to 6 and longer than 6 months; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Pauline Tully

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 34666/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In relation to the average waiting period for an authorised purchase order for a prosthesis or orthosis, this varies depending on a number of factors. These would include the specific type of orthosis or prosthetic being requested, the timing of the submission of the request in relation to the local schedule of resource allocation meetings, local administrative practices, and the requirement for additional documentation, and priority ranking, amongst other factors. Consequently, this period can vary significantly between individual cases. We would estimate that the average is two to three weeks.

In respect of the length of time that an individual is waiting on receiving their prosthesis or orthosis this is very much dependent on the particular item being requested. Approximately 70% of individuals, who do not require a bespoke orthotic item, will have their item provided at the time of assessment. Prosthetic items would usually be bespoke.

Those that require a bespoke item will have to wait for the item to be manufactured and subsequently fitted. This involves a delay resulting from a number of factors including, the specific company manufacturing the item, the availability of parts, the complexity of the orthotic prescription, and the speed of shipping of the finished product, and subsequent fitting. Due to wide variation in products and the different types and levels of sophistication of the various information management systems that are in use in the different local health areas it is not presently possible to provide waiting times from all areas in the manner requested.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations