



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
Átha Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

Office of the National Director
Acute Operations

Unit 4a, the Dargan Building, Heuston
South Quarter, Military Road,
Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 NN9V

www.hse.ie
@hselive

t 01 795 9972
e acutehospitals@hse.ie

18th May 2022

Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 25172/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full-year cost to end the use of debt collectors by the HSE for in-patient charges for cancer patients. -Jennifer Murnane O'Connor

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

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

I am advised by the National Finance Division that the information which you have requested is not available.

You will be aware that hospitals are required by legislation to raise in-patient statutory charges. The charge for inpatient/day services is €80 per day up to a maximum of €800 in a rolling 12 month period. Inpatient and day case service charges do not apply in certain instances e.g. for medical card holders.

However, where a patient has incurred in-patient charges and is unable to pay within the timeframe, they should contact the accounts/finance department at the hospital where they are receiving treatment to discuss these charges. In some cases of "excessive hardship", hospitals can waive inpatient charges, or agree payment plans. It may also be of assistance to contact the Social Work Department in their treating hospital as they can advise regarding available supports.

Hospitals are required under the HSE's National Financial Regulations to resolve the issue directly with the patient before engaging debt agencies to recover the debt.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Carol Ivory
General Manager
Acute Operations