



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Deputy John Mc Guinness
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

15th November 2022

PQ 55055/22: Deputy John Mc Guinness

To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm the rate per kilometre paid by the HSE to patients who use their own car to attend dialysis sessions/appointments; if the rate will be increased given the increase in the costs of travel; if the payment to those making such a claim is issued in a timely manner; the number of patients availing of the scheme; the number of claims outstanding for a month or more; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

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.

Reimbursement of travel costs for haemodialysis patients -the rate per kilometre

Transport for Haemodialysis patients travelling to treatment is either provided by Taxi or self-drive. To reduce the risk of infection during the pandemic, patients could opt to self-drive/ had a friend or family member drive them to their treatment. Patients could avail of a reimbursement payment for self-driving to their treatment. Patients are eligible to claim 30c per kilometre travelling directly to and from the Haemodialysis Parent Renal Unit or HSE Contracted Haemodialysis Unit that is closest to their place of residence. The payment is made to cover the normal 3 direct trips per week which is 6 journeys that the patient makes to their local unit.

We are aware that the recent rise in fuel costs may have a knock on effect for patients nationally and have escalated this concern to our colleagues in the HSE regarding this matter.

All payments are administered through the patients local Renal Unit. Local clinicians make transport decisions for their own patients. The operational aspect and payment scheme is organised by the local renal unit at each hospital. They are best placed to provide information regarding the number of patients availing of the scheme and the timeframe on the number of outstanding claims for their patients.

The local renal unit at each Hospital are best positioned to advise on the details of their reimbursement and payment policies. This is not within the remit of this office.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

Prof George Mellotte
National Clinical Lead for Renal Services
National Renal Office

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