



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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12th December 2022

Deputy Shortall ,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 59724/22 – To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider providing back-up power supply batteries for hydraulic beds with pressure mattresses for home-based HSE patients, using HSE supplied equipment given that the beds being supplied by the HSE currently have no back-up batteries or power supply units, which could lead to patients having to be re-hospitalised in the case of a power cut; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Roisin Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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

For a number of health and safety reasons the HSE no longer provides individuals living in the community with Hydraulic beds. All beds provided are Electrical Profiling type beds. The type of mattress used, which is often an air alternating mattresses also require a constant power source to operate. Individual service users can often have a number of other medical equipment items that require an electrical power source.

In terms of the best use of valuable financial resources, minimising the environmental impact of our services, and the significantly increased maintenance requirement associated with providing an alternative power source for our equipment, it is neither practical, nor a rational use of resources for the HSE to provide alternative power sources for supplied equipment.

Instead, the electricity networks operate a scheme that allows individuals who have electrically powered essential medical equipment (or their families/carers) to register as such. This scheme helps ensure that during any planned power cut that these individuals are not deprived of supply, and that any unplanned loss of supply is restored without delay. We would advise any service user with electrically powered essential medical equipment to make contact with their electricity provider and have themselves included on this register.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations