



Oifig an Stiúirthóra  
Náisiúnta Cúnta Oibríochtaí  
Pobail  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine  
Scothaosta

Office of the Assistant National  
Director – Community Operations  
Services for Older People

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18<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Deputy Colm Burke,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

**PQ: 22/52801**

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will clarify the current position in respect of the discharge of patients from hospitals to step-down facilities in cases in which the patient or their immediate family are given no say by the HSE in respect of which step-down facility they are transferred to; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

The decision to discharge patients to alternative pathways of care takes place in the Acute Care Services environment. The will and preference of the service user is always taken into consideration as part of the formation of the discharge plan.

Community services strive to facilitate discharges that require residential care as close as possible to the service user's residence, yet the nature of care that is required to support the service user and/or the availability of an appropriate bed may limit the choice of facility.

Yours sincerely,

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General Manager Services for Older People  
Community  
Operations