



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Ivana Bacik TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

22nd February 2023

PQ 8061/23 *“To ask the Minister for Health his plans to extend financial cover for stem cell therapy to patients with multiple sclerosis; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy Bacik,

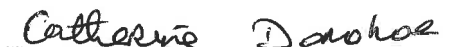
Thank you for your parliamentary question referenced above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

I am happy to confirm in general funding of treatment not available in Ireland is organised through the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) pursuant to EU Regulation 883/2004. I can further confirm that applications for stem cell treatment for patients suffering from multiple sclerosis have been approved for some years now. Approvals for funding under the TAS are of course subject to the certain criteria for example, a public patient seeking public healthcare in another EU/EEA country, the UK or Switzerland; application for and granting of prior authorisation in advance of accessing any of the healthcare abroad, etc.

Full details of the TAS are available on the HSE website. I am attaching an information leaflet we provide to patients who seek an application form directly from our offices which may be of assistance.

If you have any queries, or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Donohoe
A/Assistant National Director