



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
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24th January, 2023

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

PQ 3126/23 – To ask the Minister for Health if he will clarify that the contract for the national standardised list of community-funded aids and appliances and prescribing criteria is in place; and if he will outline the requirements for the equitable distribution of aids and appliances in each CHO for people who are blind or vision-impaired

- Holly Cairns

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

The national list of Aids and Appliances and associated prescribing criteria is in place and they are available on the HSE website. They can be readily accessed by searching for 'Community Funded Schemes' or for 'Aids and Appliances'. This list comprises thousands of different products, which are the subject of multiple different contracts. For your convenience I have attached a link below

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/community-funded-schemes/aids-and-appliances/aids-and-appliances.html>. The HSE endeavors to have a contract in place for all items procured.

Aids and Appliances are prescribed for individual service users by healthcare professionals, based on a clinical assessment that the particular product will meet a particular need. They are provided to eligible service users in line with the established processes and procedures that are in place in the local health areas. Given the thousands of different products, it is unsurprising that the criteria for accessing aids and appliances are many and varied and relate to the particular service, aid or appliance that is being requested. Criteria can be based on; clinical need, demand, General Medical Service's eligibility, compassionate grounds, LTI eligibility, priority listing, budget availability, historical local practices, or a combination of these criteria. The eligibility criteria while common in many instances, are specific to the particular service, aid, or appliance that is being requested.

Aids and appliances are prescribed on the basis of an identified clinical need and provided in line with the established criteria, irrespective of the underlying medical condition that has given rise to the need that the particular piece of equipment is designed to address.



I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seán McArt".

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations