



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaróibríochtaí

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Deputy Colm Burke
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

19th June 2023

PQ 28242/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the steps he will take to ensure that current parking concessions offered to cancer patients are highlighted through the HSE website and hospital websites and publications; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke

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.

Hospitals currently charging car parking fees are very cognisant of the financial implications of these parking costs for patients and their families, particularly for those with long-term and chronic illnesses. Consequently, many hospitals have introduced a maximum daily fixed parking charge and reduced rates and/or concessions for patients with long-term and chronic illnesses inclusive of their families and visitors, for whom this payment of the full rate would cause hardship. The provision of parking concessions to patients and families and the implementation of a maximum daily charge were recommendations of the 2018 Hospital Car Parking Review.

In February 2023, the HSE established that out of 44 hospital-controlled car parks that provide patient parking 28 (64%) provide concessions and 8 (18%) provide free parking. In summary 82% of acute hospitals either provide concessions or free parking.

The criteria for the granting of concessions vary from hospital to hospital depending on the nature of the care being provided. These include;

- Oncology patients
- Dialysis patients
- Families of deceased
- End of Life/Palliative care
- Patients/Families under financial strain



Ensuring the fair allocation of concessions and the provision of information to patients is a challenge for hospitals. As a result, how the process is overseen and how information is made available differs from hospital to hospital.

The HSE policy in relation to parking charges is currently in development. It will provide guidance to hospitals regarding the provision of information in relation to the availability of concessions.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Dunne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Dunne
General Manager
Acute Operations