



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
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22nd March 2023

Mr. David Cullinane TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 13008/23

To ask the Minister for Health the process by which Resource Allocation Group applications in CHO5 are received, assessed and decided by the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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

I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

The purpose of the Resource Allocation Group (RAG) is to put in place a multidisciplinary, standardised and equitable approach to the provision of specialised non stock equipment ('Aids & Appliances') to patients of all ages in the CHO5 area. Receipt of applications to RAG is by way of referral from all 'prescribers' of equipment i.e. HSE Community Clinicians, Acute Care Clinicians and some private practitioners who are contracted by the HSE to provide a service. The RAG sits on a weekly basis in Carlow/Kilkenny and South Tipperary and on a fortnightly basis in Waterford and Wexford and there is a limit of funding available.

The criteria for the provision of equipment (aids & appliances) is based on both legislative eligibility (Medical Card, Long Term Illness Card, Health Amendment Act Card) and a clinical assessment, which determines the Priority Rating. An explanation of our Priority 1 Rating is outlined below:

Priority 1 All aids and appliances in this category enable function in the following circumstances:

- o Activities essential to daily living are functionally impossible.
- o Activities essential to daily living are occurring with risk to health and safety.
- o Activities essential to daily living are possible but cause acute pain.
- o Aid or Appliance is essential for children and adults to participate in therapeutic activity (not to include items which a child of any given age would generally have).

There is an agreed standard and type of equipment which is provided in the CHO5 area and this is to ensure that we can provide essential equipment to as many patients as possible within the funding available.

The implementation of this agreed process is contained and disseminated in our agreed Policy and Standard Operating Procedure which is currently being updated.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anna Marie Lanigan".

Anna Marie Lanigan

**Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare**