



**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí**

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
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Deputy Sorca Clarke
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

23rd May 2023

PQ 24197/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of hospitals not accepting referrals for patients who availed of the cross border initiative for treatment, despite HSE guidelines which assure patients that should complications arise they have the right "to access the Irish health care system to put it right"; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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.

I am advised by the Treatment Abroad Service (TAS) that patients have a right to access follow up care upon return to Ireland when they have availed of healthcare abroad under the provisions of the Cross Border Directive (CBD). I understand that follow up care is usually organised by the referring doctor upon receipt of the discharge letter from the consultant abroad.

I am advised that it may be the case that many of the consultants abroad may not be providing or sending discharge letters to the referring doctor in Ireland. The follow up care would in general be provided in the community and not in the acute hospital setting. For example if the patient requires physiotherapy that physiotherapy would be organised by the referring GP via the primary care service and not in the acute hospital.

However, if a patient experiences difficulty accessing follow up care on the basis of any service refusing to provide the follow up care the patient should make direct contact with the National Contact Point office. The National Contact Point office will contact the service in question and advise of any legal entitlement the patient has under the Directive, contact details below:

**National Contact Point office
HSE Cross Border Directive
St Canice's Hospital
Dublin Road
Kilkenny
Tel: 056 778 4547 or 056 778 4546 or 056 778 4556**

I trust this is of assistance,

Yours sincerely,

**Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations**