



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Pearse Doherty TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

9<sup>th</sup> June 2023

PQ25640/23 *“To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who have availed of the "Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare" cross-Border initiative who have not had all of their expenses fully covered; the number of persons who have had to pay in excess of €1,000, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy Doherty,

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

In general, the Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme allows for a person to choose to access healthcare abroad in the private healthcare sector in Northern Ireland, which they are entitled to access in the public health system in Ireland. The patient is required to pay for the healthcare abroad and claim reimbursement from the National Contact Point (NCP) office. The reimbursement rate will be based on the cost of the healthcare abroad or the cost of the healthcare in the public system in Ireland, whichever is the lesser.

I sincerely regret we do not collate the information you have requested.

Under the Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme (NIPHS) the healthcare is accessed in the private healthcare sector in Northern Ireland. Private healthcare in Northern Ireland is in general provided at a higher cost (more expensive) than the reimbursement rate which applies being the cost of public healthcare in Ireland.

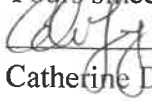
The HSE reimbursement rates that apply to healthcare are published on the NIPHS webpage. It is advisable that patients should check the reimbursement rate that will be eligible versus the cost of the healthcare quoted by the private healthcare provider in Northern Ireland in advance of committing or accessing the healthcare.

The HSE NCP encourages patients to make an informed choice when choosing a facility abroad to access their healthcare, one factor being the cost of the healthcare abroad when compared with the likely reimbursement to be received. The HSE introduced a system of prior notification, which patients can use to ensure they will be eligible for reimbursement of inpatient care and which confirms an estimate of the applicable reimbursement rate.

I regret I was unable to provide you with the specific data requested but hope the details above will go some way to addressing the issue. Patients should contact the National Contact Point in Kilkenny 056 77 84546 if they wish to seek advice on their specific case.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Catherine Donohoe

A/Assistant National Director

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