



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Deputy Healy-Rae,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 9410/24 To ask the Minister for Health the most up-to-date information regarding specialist bras and prosthesis available to women; the number of items they are sanctioned for; how often they are sanctioned; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Michael Healy-Rae**

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Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 9410/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The budget and management of the provision of bras and prosthesis post cancer treatment is a function that rests with Community Healthcare Organisations. Their policies and procedures have developed locally and been influenced by a number of factors including historical practices and local budget allocations. The general position in relation to bras and prosthesis post cancer treatment is that 2 bras per year and 1 prosthesis every two years is funded for those with medical card eligibility, as stated this is not uniform and based on historical practices, therefore levels of provision can differ across the country.

The service improvement programme for Community Funded Schemes is currently reviewing this, with existing provisions remaining the same at this time. The aim of the service improvement programme is to develop national evidence based standards, improved procedures and equity in the services available to our service users. A key consideration of this programme is that no one is at a financial loss due to procedures being implemented for this purpose.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Seán McArt**

General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations