



Deputy Marie Sherlock TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

3rd April 2025

PQ : 15909/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients claimed for code N08Z under the cross-border directive in 2022, 2023, and 2024, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

Thank you for your parliamentary question referenced above, which was passed to the HSE for response.

In general the Cross Border Directive (CBD) allows public patients to access healthcare in another EU/EEA country which they are entitled to access in Ireland. The patient pays for the treatment up front and claims reimbursement upon return to Ireland. Reimbursement is at the cost of the treatment abroad or the cost of the treatment in Ireland whichever is the lesser. Public patient pathways as they apply to accessing the healthcare in Ireland equally apply to accessing the healthcare abroad under the CBD.

In general the Northern Ireland Healthcare Scheme (NIPHS) allows public patients to access healthcare in the private healthcare sector of Northern Ireland, where the treatment is one they are entitled to access in Ireland. The patient pays for the treatment up front and claims reimbursement upon return to Ireland. Reimbursement is at the cost of the treatment in Northern Ireland or the cost of the treatment in Ireland whichever is the lesser. Public patient pathways as they apply to accessing the healthcare in Ireland equally apply to accessing the healthcare abroad under the NIPHS.

Both the aforementioned schemes rely on a comparison of the cost of treatment in the public sector in Ireland with the cost of the treatment incurred abroad with the principle the patient is entitled to whichever is the lesser amount. In Ireland public patient hospital costs are set out in a list of Diagnostic Related Group (DRG) codes which is available on the HSE website [Cross Border Directive - Apply for reimbursement - HSE.ie](#).

The number of patients who submitted claims for reimbursement in respect of DRG code N08Z for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 are set out in the table below.

Year	No. of Patients
2022	15
2023	32
2024	31

I trust the above table provides the information requested but please do not hesitate to revert to me if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Donohoe
Head of Function/Service
National Services & Schemes