



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta
um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

Ospideal an Dr. Steevens
Baile Atha Cliath, D08 W2A8

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Deputy Thomas Gould
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

22nd April 2025

PQ 18185/25 - To ask the Minister for Health whether a patient who is to be transferred between healthcare facilities via taxi could instead be driven by a family member or friend. -Thomas Gould

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

Decisions regarding the transfer of patients between healthcare facilities can be made by relevant healthcare professionals based on factors including:

- Fitness to travel
- Medical and clinical need
- Mobility needs
- Decision-making capacity of the patient

There is no national policy in place defining when a patient can be driven by a family member or a friend, rather than via taxi and such decisions are made on a case-by-case basis across the health services. In this regard, patients are accompanied by health service personnel to ensure the patient has continuity of care and to ensure the safety of the patient.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Access & Integration