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20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Deputy Liam Quaide  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ19189/25**

*To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide details of services and supports offered to people impacted by side-effects of the pandemic vaccine; and, in particular, the duration of those supports and services, and related investment amounts. – Liam Quaide.*

Dear Deputy Quaide

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.

The Ex-Gratia Reimbursement Scheme for people diagnosed with narcolepsy following receipt of the H1N1 Pandemix vaccine was set up in 2012 to support patients to access medical treatment for their condition. The scheme is available to those who can provide a letter of diagnosis stating that the narcolepsy is linked to the H1N1 vaccination for their lifetime.

There is no official list of services or supports available to each person as it is on a case-by-case basis however the majority of the reimbursement requests fall under the following categories:

**Current requests we process for those who have been granted access to the scheme**

- Travel costs to and from hospital/consultant appointments
- Subsistence associated with hospital/consultant appointments
- College Accommodation both at home and abroad
- Prescription Charges not covered by medical card
- Prescription charges abroad whilst studying
- Counselling
- Dental
- Childcare
- Physiotherapy

Patients have access to a medical card regardless of means provided a letter of diagnosis is issued which states the narcolepsy related to their H1N1 Vaccination.

The HSE liaises with the State Claims Agency to ensure that all claims for reimbursement are given the utmost consideration, the HSE is not privy to the outcomes of any legal claims made by individuals.

In relation to the amount the HSE has spent to date on the scheme please see below an outline of costs from 2022 to 2024:

#### Reimbursement of Expenses

Year 2022	€96,985
Year 2023	€204, 163
Year 2024	€178,655

#### Medical Card Related Expenses

Year	GMS	STC	Special Items	Optical	Dental	High Tec	Vaccination	Total Cost
Jan - Dec 2022	€122,859.37	€489.04	€2,122.00	€1,081.13	€2,633.10	€480,391.88	€28.50	€609,605.02
Jan - Dec 2023	€120,945.52	€163.25	€2,612.80	€422.68	€2,177.28	€473,865.38	€0.00	€600,186.91
Jan - Dec 2024	€118,501.39	€815.97	€4,078.40	€630.85	€3,144.50	€457,888.96	€0.00	€585,060.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>€362,306.28</b>	<b>€1,468.26</b>	<b>€8,813.20</b>	<b>€2,134.66</b>	<b>€7,954.88</b>	<b>€1,412,146.22</b>	<b>€28.50</b>	<b>€1,794,852.00</b>

Also, through a yearly Service Level Agreement of €25,000 the HSE supports the voluntary group **Sufferers of Unique Narcolepsy Disorder (SOUND)** which aims to assist those living with the condition with peer-to-peer support and also bring awareness of the condition of Narcolepsy arising from the association with the H1N1 Vaccination.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Ryan  
National Director  
Public Involvement, Culture and Risk Management