



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,
Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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28th February 2025

Deputy Rice,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 8469/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the current hourly direct cost and indirect cost of paediatric home care packages; and the total cost of direct and indirect delivery of this type of home care in each of the years 2020 to 2024.

Padraig Rice

Dear Deputy Rice,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 8469/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Paediatric Home Care Packages (PHCP) are a home nursing service provided by HSE Primary Care when a child has complex healthcare nursing needs that cannot be met by existing Primary Care and social services. They are put in place to enable families to care for their CCHN (Children with Complex Healthcare Needs) at home. This service is delivered to CCHNs who are children who have substantial healthcare needs as a result of one or more congenital, acquired or chronic conditions and who have functional limitations that often require technology assistance and ongoing nursing care primarily to support their parents to care for them at home.

This service which is demand led is delivered via service arrangements by preferred private healthcare providers tasked to deliver nursing care in the home environment to CCHN. PHCPs are child and family-centred and individualised to the child's needs.

There is no standard hourly rate for PHCP cases as each case is bespoke due to the differing needs of children. Each time a new PHCP case is put in place the relevant geographical area of the HSE invites all of the approved providers on the PHCP Dynamic Purchasing Framework to tender for the case and this includes their estimated cost of the case. Each new case is awarded using criteria specified by the area including the cost of the case as outlined by each provider, the governance arrangements and the relevant experience of the nurses identified by each provider to deliver nursing care for the case.



The table below shows the total annual cost of all PHCP cases for each year from 2020 to 2024;

Year	Total cost of PHCP cases
2020	€26.7m
2021	€27.4m
2022	€32.4m
2023	€38.3m
2024	€46.9m

The total annual cost of PHCP cases has increased in recent years due to a number of factors including increased complexity of cases, inflationary pressures and increased demand for new PHCP cases. In 2024 a record 137 new PHCP cases were initiated which represents an increase of 78% compared to the 77 new PHCP cases initiated in 2020. Also note that the cost of PHCP in both 2020 and 2021 was lower than anticipated as a number of families choose to temporarily discontinue the PHCP nursing care in the home to minimise their child's exposure to Covid-19.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt
General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration