



Ceann Feidhme/Seitbhíse,
Seirbhísí agus Scéimeanna Náisiúnta
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Deputy Noel McCarthy, T.D.,
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

14th July 2025

PQ : 39868/25

To ask the Minister for Health if reimbursement for any form of hormone treatment for transgender teenagers is possible under the Cross Border Directive, given that a referral has been received for treatment abroad as the procedure in question is not currently provided nationally; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Noel McCarthy

Dear Deputy McCarthy,

I refer to 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.

I cannot provide a definitive answer to your question as eligibility for reimbursement is determined on a case-by-case basis. If this relates to a specific patient, we will be happy to engage directly with the patient if he/she so wishes. In general, if a treatment is available in Ireland and the patient would qualify for that treatment in Ireland, then that treatment would qualify for reimbursement under the CBD. Again, I must caution that the specifics of individual cases determine eligibility for reimbursement.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Donohoe
Head of Function/Service