



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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16<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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

**PQ 31357/25 To ask the Minister for Health the reason the HSE makes enteral feeding syringes available free to patients in public nursing homes but not in private nursing homes; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Seán Canney**

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Dear Deputy Canney,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 31357/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In Ireland, individuals living in private nursing homes can access drugs, medicines or consumables in the same ways as individual living in their own home. If a nursing home resident has eligibility they are entitled to free GP visits and eligible medications and consumables, including those needed while resident in a nursing home. The private nursing home must arrange for a local GP or Hospital Doctor who can prescribe under the GMS scheme. A community pharmacy then dispenses and delivers the drugs, medicine or consumable. This differs slightly to public nursing homes where there is a direct delivery mechanism in place.

I trust this is of assistance.

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**Seán McArt**

General Manager  
Primary Care Access & Integration