



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil
Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Albert Dolan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
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1st July 2025

PQ34995/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the reason the cross-Border healthcare Directive does not cover inpatient treatment for chronic Lyme disease, given that patients suffering from this condition often require specialised care not readily available domestically, and that directive is intended to ensure access to necessary medical treatments within the EU; if there are plans to amend the current interpretation or implementation of the directive to better support these patients; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan,
Thank you for your representation.

The HSE provides a full range of evidence-based services for treatment of all stages of Lyme disease. The HSE is aware that there are a number of people who have been advised by a medical practitioner that they have chronic Lyme disease and have been advised by a medical practitioner to follow treatment pathways that are provided primarily by private services in other countries.

In many cases the evidence on which the diagnosis of chronic Lyme disease is based is not well established and widely accepted. Several of the treatments offered are not based on accepted evidence of safety and effectiveness and are not recommended by the great majority of experts in this area. If evidence of safety and efficacy of these treatments is published, they can be provided without any change in the current interpretation or implementation of the cross border directive.

I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer