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30th June, 2025

Mr. Colm Burke., T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 35097/25

"To ask the Minister for Health whether women who have undergone surgery and now require support services, including breast prostheses, can access those support services with a supplier of their choice, and that the HSE South/Southwest cannot dictate the supplier that they must attend for such services; and if she will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Burke,

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.

A patient who has had a mastectomy to treat cancer can get help through the HSE to pay for a prosthesis, specialist bra and swimwear. These are known as post-mastectomy products.

Someone who has had a mastectomy is entitled each year to:

- €400 for a prosthesis and two post-mastectomy bras
- €150 for a prosthesis and a swimsuit

Someone who has had a double mastectomy is entitled each year to:

- €650 for a prosthesis and two post-mastectomy bras
- €215 for a prosthesis and a swimsuit

You do not need a medical card to get this allowance. Your care team or GP prescribes the products.

Below is a list of tried and tested reliable companies who are set up on a contract with the HSE:

- Bellisima, Cork
- Supreme Silhouette, Cork
- Recovery Haven (The Lingerie Room), Listowel, Co. Kerry

Patients will receive a prescription letter from their care team which they can take with them to any of the above companies of their choice and the products are provided based on the financial allowances as outlined above. The company will then apply to the HSE for reimbursement.

- Post mastectomy **patients living in Kerry or other counties**, who attend a **Cork based supplier** for their post mastectomy products apply for Purchase Orders and submit their invoices to:
 - Geraldine Barry Murphy, Business Manager, Cork University Hospital, Wilton, Cork
- Post mastectomy **patients living in Cork**, who attend a **Cork based supplier** for their post mastectomy products apply for Purchase Orders and submit their invoices to:
 - Primary Care, Local Health Office, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co. Cork

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Please note that all invoices will be paid for women requiring post mastectomy products, as per the allowance outlined above, from any vendor registered with the HSE and is not limited to their county of residence.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Moriarty
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