



Deputy Thomas Gould, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

12th March 2025

PQ: 11411/25

To ask the Minister for Health the criteria required to claim reimbursement under the treatment abroad scheme.

Dear Deputy Gould,

I refer to your parliamentary question referenced above, which was passed on to the HSE for response.

In general the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) allows for the funding of an identified treatment for a public patient from Ireland referred to the public healthcare system of another EU/EEA country, the UK or Switzerland, in a situation where the treatment is not available in Ireland. There is specific criteria which must be met as set out in EU Regulation 883/2004 which is the legal basis for TAS funding.

Reimbursement may not be claimed under the provisions of the TAS. The TAS is organised by direct payments between the public healthcare systems in the referring country (the HSE in Ireland) to the public healthcare system in the treating country (e.g. the NHS in the UK).

I understand that the question in relation to reimbursement refers to the Cross Border Directive (CBD) scheme and not the TAS. I am setting out below the general criteria required to claim reimbursement under the CBD. Please note that Directive 2011/24/EU which is the governing legislation for the CBD is detailed and complex and also relies on legislation set out in EU Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009. Therefore the information being provided hereunder is general and it is understood that each case is evaluated on a case by case basis.

In general, the CBD allows public patients in Ireland to access necessary healthcare in another EU or EEA country and be reimbursed for the treatment upon return to Ireland. The reimbursement is at the cost of the treatment abroad or the cost of the treatment in Ireland, whichever is the lesser.

The general criteria for claiming a reimbursement under the CBD are as follows:

- The patient must be a public patient in Ireland.
- The patient must have an appropriate referral for the treatment accessed under the CBD.
- The patient must be eligible for that treatment in Ireland in order to be eligible to claim reimbursement under the CBD. For example only certain categories of orthodontic treatments are eligible for public funding in Ireland.
- Ireland must be the competent State for the patient under EU Regulation 883/2004.



Some patients resident in Ireland may not be eligible to claim reimbursement from the HSE for example patients who are in receipt of an income from another country or who reside in Ireland pursuant to a Visa with healthcare conditions attached.

- The treatment must be a treatment the patient is entitled to access in the public healthcare system in Ireland.
- The patient must have followed public patient pathways as they apply in Ireland to access the care. For example a patient may not access inpatient or day case care without first having been assessed at an outpatient assessment with the treating consultant.
- The patient must submit all the relevant documentation to have the reimbursement processed e.g. referral letter or waiting list letter, invoice(s), receipt(s), proof of payment, etc.
- The patient must have paid the hospital or healthcare provider abroad directly for the healthcare.

The above is not a definitive list but rather a general guide. Each application is examined on a case by case basis. If you wish to provide details of any specific case I will be happy to provide more definitive information.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Donohoe

Catherine Donohoe
Head of Function/Service
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