



**Tipperary University Hospital**

Ospidéal na hOllscoile Thiobraid Árann

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15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

Mattie McGrath, TD

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PQ 23184/25

**To ask the Minister for Health if she will urgently review the restrictions to hospital transport services in Tipperary, which are leaving many patients without transport; to increase the budget for the service to ensure that those in real need of transport are not left without; the reason for the increase in the demand; if hospital transport for beneficiaries of temporary protection or international protection applicants is taken from the hospital budget or provided from an alternative budget; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Mattie McGrath**

Dear Deputy,

Due to current financial constraints within the allocated hospital budget, Tipperary University Hospital has had to review and amend the eligibility criteria for the Non-Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT) Service to preserve this valuable service in south Tipperary so that the most in need and vulnerable patients can still access it.

The hospital continues to robustly assess applications under this scheme to try and accommodate patients throughout the year. However, all patients must meet the revised criteria before being approved for transport.

Tipperary University Hospital considers a number of criteria when making any decision on the scheme including the patient's exceptional medical need, the person's age (75 years and over) and mobility and appointment type. Patients travelling for radiation therapy, chemotherapy will not be affected by these changes.

The Non-Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT) service, which provides non-emergency patient transport for some patients in the South East region, was set up in 2013 on a discretionary basis by the HSE for the South East region.

Hospitals in this region were given a budget to provide limited non-emergency transport for patients who met the specific eligibility criteria for non-emergency patient transport to attend other acute services. This service is based on medical need and mobility criteria.

The Non-Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT) services provided by Tipperary University Hospital are approved based on meeting the eligibility criteria. Social, economic, or Immigration status are not considered during the process.

TippUH's goal is to ensure that all individuals who meet the medical criteria for this service receive timely and appropriate The Non-Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT).

Yours sincerely,

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Ailish Delaney  
**Interim Hospital Manager**