



3 June 2025

Deputy Thomas Gould, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 24121/25

To ask the Minister for Health whether dialysis patients travel together via taxi.

Additional information from Deputy: We are wondering if they can share hospital provided taxis as it was stopped during Covid for understandable reasons

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Renal Office (NRO) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, non-emergency patient transport was shared by dialysis patients from the same geographical area travelling to the same dialysis unit on the same dialysis treatment schedule.

However, with the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, strategies to minimise patient to patient contact were introduced and dialysis patients travelled in single occupancy transport in line with government guidance on social distancing to minimise exposure to the virus.

The HSE's National Renal Office (NRO) has published a document titled: Guidance for Non-Emergency Haemodialysis Patient Transport¹, which is available to haemodialysis units. The staff at haemodialysis units are the main point of contact for the patient and /or carer. They liaise with the transport provider to ensure adequate provision is made for transporting patients according to the mobility of each patient.

Access to transport should be assessed based on clinical need and reviewed on a regular basis at local level.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan
General Manager

References

1. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/renal/resources/nro-guidance-for-non-emergency-haemodialysis-patient-transport-2019.pdf>