



**Deputy Peadar Tóibín TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.**

15th October 2025

PQ : 53762/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of southern patients that have been treated in the North of Ireland in each of the past ten years; and the number of northern patients that have been treated in the south of Ireland in each of the past ten years.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

Thank you for your parliamentary question referenced above which has been forwarded to me for reply.

In general the Northern Ireland Healthcare Scheme (NIPHS) allows public patients to access healthcare in the private healthcare sector of Northern Ireland, where the treatment is one they are entitled to access in Ireland. The patient pays for the treatment up front and claims reimbursement upon return to Ireland. Reimbursement is at the cost of the treatment in Northern Ireland or the cost of the treatment in Ireland whichever is the lesser. Public patient pathways as they apply to accessing the healthcare in Ireland equally apply to accessing the healthcare abroad under the NIPHS.

Prior to the UK exit from the EU patients from Ireland could access treatment in the UK under the Cross Border Healthcare Directive 2011/24/EU. In general, the Cross Border Directive (CBD) allows public patients to access healthcare in another EU/EEA country which they are entitled to access in Ireland. The patient pays for the treatment up front and claims reimbursement upon return to Ireland. Reimbursement is at the cost of the treatment abroad or the cost of the treatment in Ireland whichever is the lesser. Public patient pathways as they



apply to accessing the healthcare in Ireland equally apply to accessing the healthcare abroad under the CBD.

In terms of the number of patients from Ireland that have been treated in the North of Ireland in each of the past ten years, please see the tables below.

CBD Approved reimbursements* by episode of care - Northern Ireland Only from 2015-2019	
Year	Total
2015	114
2016	614
2017	1,660
2018	6,091
2019	7,194

*A reimbursement may have numerous episodes of care and the above figures capture each of these separately. We cannot identify the number of individual applications as this data is not available from 2015-2019

The following tables set out the number of applications reimbursed from 2020-2024 for CBD and 2021-2024 for NIPHS.

CBD Approved Applications* Northern Ireland Only 2020-2024	
Year	Total
2020	7,699
2021	3,039
2022	517
2023	334
2024	338

Patients who had commenced their treatment in Northern Ireland prior to the UK exit from the EU continued to access that care in Northern Ireland under transition arrangements.



NIPHS Approved Applications* 2021-2024	
Year	Total
2021	1,187
2022	2,999
2023	4,622
2024	4,560

No. of applications*: a patient may receive a single reimbursement however, this reimbursement may include numerous episodes of care (outpatient/day case/inpatient)

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Donohoe
Head of Function