



Deputy Ken O'Flynn, T.D.

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

10th Sept 2025

PQ : PQ 44531/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she will review the supports available to Irish patients who undergo surgery abroad under the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive and return with serious complications, in particular where surgical error is involved; if she will outline the entitlements such patients have for aftercare, corrective surgery, or clinical support; and if she will consider the introduction of a formal aftercare policy for patients returning from approved cross-border procedures. -Ken O'Flynn

Dear Deputy O'Flynn,

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

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.

Patients who access healthcare under the CBD have rights set out in legislation. The patient may access follow up care in the same way a patient who access the treatment in Ireland would access follow up care:

- Revert to the treating doctor albeit in this case the treating doctor is abroad.
- Revert to the referring doctor, which is most likely to be the patient's GP. The patient's GP will refer the patient to the relevant service in secondary (hospital) or primary care services as appropriate.



- The patient has the right to present at A&E where any and all necessary care will be provided including scheduling of additional interventions.

Patients also have the right to make a complaint or seek redress in the country where the treatment was provided.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Donohoe
Head of Function/Service