



Deputy Jennifer Whitmore TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

9th Sept 2025

PQ : 45286/25

To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE treatment abroad scheme includes provision for the treatment of coccydynia; and if she will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

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

In general, the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) provides for the funding of a public patient from Ireland to access treatment, which is not available in Ireland, in another EU/EEA country, the UK or Switzerland. A core principle of the governing legislation, EU Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009 is that the patient must apply for and be granted prior authorisation before accessing the treatment. The HSE cannot be held liable for the costs of healthcare, the HSE has not agreed in advance to assume.

Approval of funding under the TAS is approval of a treatment. The identification of a condition is not sufficient for any decision to be issued in respect of funding under the TAS. There are many conditions for which most but not all treatments may be available in Ireland. Therefore, it is the specific treatment which may be eligible for funding not the presence of a condition.

In addition there is other criteria which will determine if an application is eligible for funding, e.g. the referral is in respect of a public patient seeing access to public healthcare abroad, etc.



I hope this provides the clarification you are seeking and regret I cannot provide a definitive answer.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Donohoe

Head of Function