



Deputy Peadar Tóibín, T.D.

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

10th Sept 2025

PQ : 45307/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of referrals for scoliosis treatment that have been put in for the TAS scheme; whether this referral done by the consultant-doctor; and whether the HSE have directed consultants to forward patients names and forms for this scheme.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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

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.

An application to the TAS for funding of a specific treatment in another EU/EEA country, the UK or Switzerland, must be supported by the consultant that is treating the patient in a public capacity in Ireland. The consultant provides a copy of the referral letter and completes section B of the application form.

I am not aware that the HSE has directed consultants to forward patients names and forms to the TAS for funding. However, in general, subject to a patient meeting the other qualifying criteria for the scheme e.g. public patient etc., scoliosis treatment is usually approved, on the basis of undue delay. The principle of undue delay is where the application can demonstrate that the patient's condition with deteriorate beyond that which can be achieved by an earlier intervention.



I am setting out the numbers of TAS applications in respect of scoliosis treatment in the table hereunder.

Period	No. of applications to the TAS
2022 - 2025 (YTD)	5

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Donohoe
Head of Function/Service