Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Cathal Crowe TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

26th July 2022

PQ39088/22* *"To ask the Minister for Health in respect of the treatment abroad scheme, the person or body within the HSE decides if a product is experimental; the criteria this decision maker uses to decide such and the definitions applied to experimental treatment; if the relevant decision makers have the expertise to review drugs for complex conditions; if the existing reimbursement list is referred to in making reimbursement decisions or whether EMA approval is deemed to be the over-riding proof of clinical safety; and if he will make a statement on the matter."*

Dear Deputy Crowe,

Thank you for your PQ above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

In the absence of a fully completed application or details of a specific case, I regret I cannot provide a definitive answer to the query. In general the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) provides for approval of funding in respect of a proven treatment that is not available in Ireland. The TAS may not be used to access drug therapies in another EU/EEA country, the UK or Switzerland. Drug therapies are funded in Ireland under specific protocols and access e.g. the High Tech Drug Scheme. There is a specific protocol in the HSE for consultants to seek access to high tech drug therapies for their patients.

If you have any queries, or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0872668759 or via catherinet.donohoe@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,

P.P. Linda Boon.

Catherine Donohoe
A/Assistant National Director