



Deputy David Cullinane

June 7<sup>th</sup> 2022

Via email only to: [david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie](mailto:david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie)

Ref PQ 26378/22

**Question:**

'To ask the Minister for Health the status of the provision of healthcare services and entitlements, medications, and surgical interventions for persons that contracted hepatitis C through the administration of contaminated blood or blood products within the State; the reason for the delay and if he will make a statement on the matter.'

**Reply:**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Amendment card covers medical care for people who contracted Hepatitis C through the administration within the State of contaminated blood or blood products.

The scheme is managed nationally by the National Hepatitis C office. Each of the nine Community Health Organisation's has a dedicated liaison Officer responsible for the administration of the scheme to people in the local area

The HAA card covers the public health care system including some additional services, such as chiropody/ podiatry, counselling, dental, GP services, pharmacy services, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, alternative medicine, and home support services.

All GP fees and general dental, optical and chiropody services along with all medication prescribed by GP are covered by the card. Additional needs/ any exceptions are reviewed by the National Hep C Office manager on a case by case basis to meet the individual needs of the HAA card holder.

There are no delays in the service provision of all the above mentioned services. There are delays in hospitals due to hospital waiting lists. HAA Card holders who require medical and clinical input and assessments continue to be prioritised based on clinical need as identified by their treating medical Consultant and team.

The HAA information booklet was updated in 2020 and replaces the previous information guide in 2014. The main update in this 2020 edition, is that access to some services was expanded for the HAA card holder to ensure the person has ease of access to a number of services.

Please see the link for the 2020 guide below:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/national-hepatitis-c-treatment-programme/haa-information-guide.pdf>

Kind Regards

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