



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil
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Deputy Chris Andrews, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 53261/23

To ask the Minister for Health if there has been no policy change regarding transgender women receiving breast augmentation as essential surgery (details supplied); the reason they have lost access to healthcare abroad under the Cross Border Directive; and the reason he and the HSE, specifically under the Cross Border Directive have allowed this blanket policy regarding breast augmentation for transgender women to be adopted.

Details Supplied: despite the World Professional Association of Transgender Health carers (WPATH) that deems this surgery absolutely essential healthcare of transgender women worldwide. Why is an already marginalised community, who have the worst healthcare in the European Union be marginalised even further with the loss of access to healthcare abroad under the Cross Border Directive? Since a decision was previously made to not reimburse the cost of surgery for transgender women receiving breast augmentation under the Cross Border Directive scheme?

Dear Deputy Andrews,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Children and Young People (NCAGL C&YP) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The HSE has not changed policy regarding transgender persons receiving breast augmentation as essential surgery. Service users remain entitled to use the Cross Border Directive scheme to get planned healthcare in another European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) member state (underpinned by EU legislation) provided that the treatment is publically available in this state. All applications are processed in an equitable and transparent manner. To apply for the Cross Border Directive scheme in Ireland, a person must:

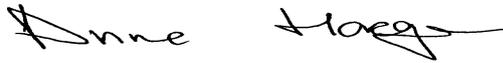
- be ordinarily resident in Ireland;
- be entitled to public healthcare in Ireland;
- qualify for the healthcare you want as a public patient in Ireland;
- have a valid referral letter;
- follow the Cross Border Directive process.

The HSE is progressing the development of the best service possible for the health and social care of this group of vulnerable service users and their families, taking into account the emerging international evidence, building a service based on experience and clinical evidence, and showing respect, inclusiveness and compassion that puts the service users at the centre.

The HSE is currently in the process of appointing a new role of Clinical Lead for Transgender Services who, over the next 2 years, will lead the development of an updated Model of Care for the treatment of gender dysphoria. It is anticipated that this new Model of Care will describe services for all people with gender dysphoria, both in the community, as well as those requiring more specialised and complex medical and surgical care. It is intended that there will be wide stakeholder engagement in the development of this Model of Care.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Anne Horgan
General Manager