



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
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29th February, 2024

Deputy O'Connor,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 55370 23 - "To ask the Minister for Health the current grants being paid to medical card holders for wigs and hairpieces, and so on".

- Jennifer Murnane O'Connor

Dear Deputy O'Connor,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 55370 23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. This response has been re-issued and will replace the previous version.

The budget and management of the provision of wigs and hairpieces is a function that rests with Community Healthcare Organisations. Their policies and procedures have developed locally and been influenced by a number of factors including historical practices and local budget allocations. The general position in relation to wigs and hair pieces is that 1 wig per year is funded based on eligibility, as stated this is not uniform and based on historical practices, therefore funding levels can differ across the country.

The service improvement programme being undertaken by National Primarycare is currently reviewing this. The aim of the service improvement programme is to develop national evidence based standards, improved procedures, and greater quality in the services available to our service users. It also aims to eliminate the existing inequities between different areas of the country. A key consideration of this programme is that no one is at a financial loss due to procedures being implemented for this purpose.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operation