



6th June 2024.

Deputy Durkan.
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Durkan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 15970/24

To ask the Minister for Health the reason home help/personal assistants are no longer permitted to administer routine eye drops for their clients; when this change took place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Bernard J. Durkan

The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan. It is a non-statutory service and access to the current service is based on assessment of the person's needs by the HSE, having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the service.

The type of support that is provided includes personal care and, where appropriate, essential household duties. The Home Support Service which people receive is based on the client's assessed care needs as determined by an assessment which is undertaken by clinical staff. The support provided and associated personal support/care plan, will be determined by the assessed level of dependency, the client's ability to undertake activities of daily living and other support structures in place. As outlined above, assessments are based on individual care needs and referral to other health and social care professionals may be made should it be deemed necessary. The management of medication in respect of each individual client is determined through the assessment of care needs and HCAs/ home support workers may provide assistance with prompting the Service User to take medicines and must record all prompts in the Schedule of Services / Home Support Care Plan record.

These parameters are specific to Home Support Services funded through Services for Older People.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Jordan
Head of Service – Home Support
Services for Older People - Community Operations