



17th July 2024

Mr Michael Healy-Rae, TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 29908 To ask the Minister for Health the number of people from Kerry who have availed of the Cross-Border Directive scheme refund for cataract removal procedures, in the past five years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

Thank you for your parliamentary question referenced above which has been forwarded to me for reply with regard to the Cross Border Directive Scheme element.

The Cross Border Directive (CBD) is a scheme to get planned healthcare in another European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) member state, which is underpinned by EU legislation. The patient must pay upfront for the healthcare they get abroad and under the scheme can apply to the HSE for reimbursement towards the cost of the healthcare after treatment. The patient needs a valid referral and must qualify for the healthcare as a public patient in Ireland.

Similarly to my response of November 20th 2023, activity and service user data relating to the Overseas Treatment Schemes is collated and reported at a high level in order to ensure service user confidentiality, therefore specific data on the number of individuals from Kerry who have accessed CBD is not reported.

Please see below information relating to activity in the Cross Border Directive (CBD) scheme and the Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme (NIPHS) for the last 5 years. Please note data is not collated by procedure but by general speciality. I can confirm the information for the past five years as it relates to ophthalmology and I am setting this out in tabular form which I hope will be of assistance to you. Please also note that this relates to episodes of care and not to individual patients as one patient may have more than one episode of care e.g. an outpatient and day case treatment.



Number of reimbursements for ophthalmology treatment in the EU/EEA under the Cross Border Directive (CBD) and in the Private Healthcare Sector of Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme (NIPHS).					
Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CBD – outpatient	2,670	1,306	403	72	88
CBD – day case		1,395	491	99	146
CBD - inpatient	4	1	3	1	3
NIPHS – outpatient	n/a	n/a	430	996	1,349
NIPHS – day case	n/a	n/a	448	1119	1,506
NIPHS - inpatient	n/a	n/a	0	0	0

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

David Walsh
National Director