



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
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17th May 2024

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

PQ 21342/24 To ask the Minister for Health the status of standardising post-mastectomy supports; what are the financial supports for all areas, in tabular form; if any areas will see a decrease in supports; the reason the HSE does not directly provide post-mastectomy support from approved vendors; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Louise O'Reilly

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 21342/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The budget and management of the provision of bras and prosthesis post cancer treatment 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 bras and prosthesis post cancer treatment is that 2 bras per year and 1 prosthesis every two years is funded for those with medical card eligibility, as stated this is not uniform and based on historical practices, therefore levels of provision can differ across the country.

The service improvement programme for Community Funded Schemes is currently reviewing this, including directly providing post-mastectomy support from approved vendors. Existing provisions remaining the same at this time. The aim of the service improvement programme is to develop national evidence based standards, improved procedures and equity in the services available to our service users. 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 Operations