



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil  
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Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service  
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Neasa Hourigan, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

27<sup>th</sup> May 2024

PQ: 21356/24

**To ask the Minister for Health if consideration is underway to reducing wait times and updating the paper-based system for the reimbursement scheme for oxygen provision systems; and if he will make a statement on the matter.-Neasa Hourigan**

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 21356/24), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Currently there is a scheme in place for the provision of oxygen to eligible (as set out in the Health Act 1970) persons. In such cases eligible persons will be provided with oxygen services by approved companies who have been contracted by means of a competitive procurement process. This is provided for under Community Funded Schemes through the local health offices and not via PCRS.

Persons who do not have full eligibility (i.e. who have limited eligibility) may seek to have some rental costs for oxygen reimbursed via the Drug Payment Scheme (DPS). The DPS allows for reimbursement in respect of approved prescribed medicines or rental costs for oxygen subject to the deduction of the monthly family threshold which is currently €80.

The PCRS are responsible for the processing of Drug Payment Scheme Refunds if the applicant or their family pay more than €80 a month for:

- Approved prescribed drugs and medicines
- Rental costs for a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine
- Rental costs for oxygen

Refund claims submitted by 25th of month are processed and paid in the following month. Information and link to downloading a Refund Claim form is available on <https://www2.hse.ie/services/schemes->

[allowances/drugs-payment-scheme/refunds/](#). Applications for a refund are accompanied by supporting documentation e.g. DPS unified claim form, invoice etc. While the PCRS has experienced an increase in the volume of refunds submitted, as government policy has reduced the DPS Co-payments, we continue to meet our monthly obligations. The PCRS is currently scoping an online solution for DPS Refunds.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle', written in a cursive style.

Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Reimbursement Service

**The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: [Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie](mailto:Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie)**