



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

26th September 2024

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 34562/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the procedure for a review of an assessment for assistive technology; and the timeframe for this review to take place.

PQ: 34564/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if there are any other organisations outside of the Central Remedial Clinic that carry out assessments for assistive technology; and if so, the names and details of these organisations

PQ: 34565/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if it is possible to request the HSE to refer a client to an organisation which is not in their CHO catchment area for an assessment for assistive technology; and if so, the procedure to be followed.

HSE Response

It has been clarified that the questions are in relation to the ATSS service.

Assistive Technology & Specialised Seating (ATSS) is provided to people with a primary complex physical disability, or dual diagnosis (physical and intellectual disability), or a complex neurological and/or neuromuscular disorder.

Providers of ATSS include as follows;



The HSE at local CHO level,
The Central Remedial Clinic (CRC), <https://www.crc.ie/services/>
Enable Ireland. <https://enableireland.ie/>
Out-Patient Department - National Rehabilitation Hospital, Rochestown Avenue, Dún Laoghaire <https://www.nrh.ie/>

The budget and management of aids and appliances via Community Funded Schemes is devolved to the local Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs). There are a variety of aids and appliances provided through community funded schemes and these products play a key role in assisting and supporting service users to maintain every day functioning. Supply of aids and appliances usually involves a qualified health care professional assessing an individual's needs and making a clinical recommendation on the supports required to enhance their daily living.

The Aids and Appliances Service Improvement Group have published a national list of aids and appliances and prescribing criteria on the HSE website. This sets out clear prescribing criteria to assist prescribers in evidence based decision making. This is available from the following webpage:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/community-funded-schemes/aids-and-appliances/>

Each local CHO/ LHO area will have its own arrangements, guidelines and procedures in relation to Assisted Technology and Specialised Seating Services for both children and adults.

The Central Remedial Clinic's Assistive Technology Support Services (ATSS) Department, specifically focusing on Assistive Technology Specialised Seating, offers a referral pathway to organisations from all CHO's and community-based teams for specific cohorts of individuals with very complex needs in line with set referral criteria. The procedure is by direct referral to the CRC from the local teams.

All CRC Assistive Technology and Specialised Seating (ATSS) clients who have been provided with equipment are offered a review appointment (phone or face to face dependent on clinical situation) three months after the supply of their equipment to ensure that the prescribed equipment is meeting the client's needs, in line with the goals identified via their assessment with the team.

If no further intervention is required, the client is discharged back to the referring therapist/team. If the client is subsequently referred again at a future date, this referral is processed and assigned a priority rating. The aim is to see clients with the highest priority rating within 12 weeks.

Yours Sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

