



Access & Integration,
Room 138, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8.
D08 W2A8

Mr Eoghan Kenny T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

22nd January 2025

PQ 1051/25 To ask the Minister for Health if the treatment and management of a rare disease (details supplied) is still being facilitated under the treatment abroad scheme for adults, and if not, the reasons why; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Kenny,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question referenced above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

In general the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) provides for the approval of funding of a public patient to access a treatment which is not available in Ireland but which is available in the public healthcare system of another EU/EEA country, the UK or Switzerland. There are specific criteria an application for funding must meet in order for funding to be approved.

Under the TAS the approval of funding is specific to treatment and specifically a treatment which is not available in Ireland but which the patient would have been entitled to if it were available in Ireland. Approval of funding is specific to an identified treatment and not to a patient's condition. Your question makes reference to a named healthcare facility, to be eligible for funding under TAS, the treatment accessed must take place in a recognised public hospital or other public institution run by a registered medical practitioner

I can confirm review, surgical interventions and follow up care for Stickler's Syndrome and associated retinal problems is available in Ireland. It is not possible in the absence of a fully completed application form which confirms eligibility of a patient and identifies a specific treatment which is not available in Ireland and which meets the criteria for the TAS to give a definitive response. For example if a treatment became available in the EU/EEA, the UK or Switzerland which was not available in Ireland and which a patient would be entitled to access then it is possible an application would be approved for a patient who has Stickler's Syndrome. Each application to the TAS is reviewed and a decision issued on a case by case basis.

If you have any queries regarding the Overseas Treatment Schemes, or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact the National Contact Point (NCP) office on 056 77 84546.

Yours sincerely,

David Walsh