



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil
Bealach amach 5, M50, An Bóthar Thuaidh, Fionnghlas
Baile Átha Cliath 11, D11 XKF3
Fón: (01) 864 7100 Facs: (01) 834 3589

Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas,
Dublin 11, D11 XKF3
Tel: (01) 864 7100 Fax: (01) 834 3589

Eoin Ó Broin, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

22nd January 2025

PQ: 1421/25

To ask the Minister for Health the position on medical cards for individuals with a diagnosed lifelong condition, that will not improve or change (PDDNOS - Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified); the reason new GP reports are required for medical card reviews given the nature of this diagnosis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Eoin Ó Broin

Dear Deputy Ó Broin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 1421/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Medical Card eligibility is primarily based on an assessment of means and is not granted on the basis of any particular condition, of itself, (except in limited cases: e.g. children under 18 years with a cancer diagnosis; persons affected by drug Thalidomide; Symphysiotomy survivors). As part of the application process for Medical Card eligibility, applicants are invited to provide comprehensive information in relation to the costs associated with any illness and the care needs of the applicant and/or any dependants. In the event that an applicant's means are above the financial threshold for the grant of Medical Card eligibility, other factors outlined in the application in relation to the burden of illness are taken into consideration and eligibility may be granted where it is deemed appropriate to exercise discretion because of the undue burden on the applicant and /or any dependants.

Applicants are advised to include a medical report if they want to be assessed for a discretionary medical card. We might write out to an applicant for a medical report if they have included medical bills in their application. In light of medical circumstances, which are submitted as part of an application, a Medical Officer reviews the file. Having given due consideration to all aspects of the application, the outcome of the assessment as to whether eligibility is to be granted or not is decided by the Medical Officer.

Please note Discretionary medical cards are issued for a specific time frame. The time frame will depend on the applicant's circumstances.

I hope this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle'.

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