

Cross-Border Healthcare Directive

If your child is entitled to public health services in Ireland, you may choose to access those services in any other EU member state, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Norway.

You will be repaid the cost of the public healthcare treatment in Ireland, or the cost of your treatment abroad, if it is less. It does not include other costs such as travel.

The Cross-Border Healthcare Directive is different from the Treatment Abroad Scheme. The Treatment Abroad Scheme covers treatments that are not available in Ireland, while the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive only covers treatments that are publicly funded and available in Ireland.

How do I qualify for the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive?

The Cross-Border Healthcare Directive only applies if you normally live in Ireland and are entitled to **public** patient healthcare here.

The patient must have a valid referral from their GP, public consultant, or HSE clinician to a health service abroad.

If the treatment involves an overnight stay in hospital, then it will need to be authorised in advance by the HSE. For other treatment, it is advisable to check whether prior authorisation is required by contacting the National Contact Point.

If your child qualifies you may have to pay for the treatment upfront. You can then apply for the HSE to pay you back. You will have to pay for your own travel costs. It's a good idea to get travel insurance if you are travelling for treatment.

How do I apply?

Detailed information on the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive is available on the [HSE website](#).

National Contact Point
Cross-Border Healthcare Directive Department
St Canice's Hospital,
Dublin Road,
Kilkenny R95 P231

Tel: 056 778 4546
Email: crossborderdirective@hse.ie

The information above is an overview of the Cross Border Healthcare Directive

When considering accessing healthcare abroad, applicants are advised to:

We won't give up until cancer does



- Visit the [HSE website](#)
- Call our Cancer Support Line on Freephone 1800 200 700 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm
- Speak to your medical social worker