

Travel Policy for E112 Applicants

Overview

The HSE operates a Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS), for persons entitled to treatment in another EU/EEA member state or Switzerland under EU Regulations and in accordance with Department of Health and Children Guidelines. Within these governing EU Regulations and the Department of Health and Children's Guidelines, the TAS provides for the cost of approved treatments in another EU/EEA member state or Switzerland through the issue of form E112 (IE).

Background

Prior to the establishment of the HSE in 2005, the TAS was and continues to be administered by local offices. In an effort to standardise access to and implementation of the Scheme the HSE has committed to introducing national policies on the operation of the Scheme. This Travel Policy aims to ensure consistency in the implementation of funding for air and sea fares for patients and a companion (where appropriate) travelling to avail of approved medical treatment under the scheme.

Travel Policy

The Treatment Abroad Scheme as provided for in EU Regulations and Department of Health and Children Guidelines, does not include a provision for Travel and or Subsistence expenses for patients or their relatives travelling abroad to avail of approved treatments. However, the HSE and specifically the TAS may provide assistance towards reasonable economic air or sea travel fares for patients, and a travelling companion where appropriate.

In an effort to standardize and provide equity of access and entitlements to approved patients for transport costs associated with travelling outside the state for treatment, this policy is to be executed as national policy.

From the 1st November 2009, the HSE Treatment Abroad Scheme will implement this policy on travel expenses for such patients and in certain circumstances an accompanying family member or another travelling companion as follows:

- The cost of air or sea fares from Ireland to the relevant EU/EEA country or Switzerland will be provided for the patient availing of approved TAS medical treatment, subject to available funding.
- Where the patient is under the age of 18, the air or sea fares of one accompanying adult will also be provided, subject to available funding.
- In the circumstances that a patient over the age of 18 requires accompaniment on the basis of medical health or incapacitation, consideration can be given for the funding of such an escort's sea or air fares, where the referring consultant certifies such a need, subject to available funding.
- The air or sea fares covered are restricted to the cost of the airline or ferry ticket charge and the government and airport/sea port charges only. Other costs for example luggage charges, travel agent fees, etc are excluded.

For the sake of clarity the Treatment Abroad Scheme, as provided for in EU Regulations and Department of Health and Children Guidelines, does not include a provision for Travel and or Subsistence expenses therefore the assistance outlined above towards air and/or sea fares will be authorised by the relevant HSE TAS officer subject to available funding.

The granting of funding for travel under this policy does not imply that such funding will be granted on an ongoing basis. Funding for travel will be assessed upon the granting of each approved application and subject to available funding.

Payments for travel in cases where the treatment is being availed of outside E112 Treatment Abroad approval will be examined on a case by case basis and any funding for same will be granted on a once off basis.