

Application Form

Treatment Abroad Scheme: E112 (IE) for healthcare in the EU, EEA, Switzerland or the UK

The HSE operates a:

- Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) to determine and provide for a person's entitlement to treatment in another EU/EEA member state, Switzerland or the UK under EU Regulation 1408/71, as per the procedures set out in EU Regulation 574/72, and in accordance with Department of Health and Children Guidelines.

A copy of these Regulations and Decisions, and all other aspects of European Law are available on the website for inspection at <http://europa.eu>. 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, Switzerland or the UK through the issue of form S2 (formerly called E112 (IE)).

The TAS allows for an Irish based Consultant to refer a public patient that is normally resident in Ireland for treatment in another EU/EEA member state or Switzerland or the UK where the treatment in question meets certain criteria.

Telemedicine may not be used to circumvent the requirement to travel abroad, for example you cannot use skype consultation in place of an outpatient appointment abroad. The application to refer a public patient abroad must be assessed and a determination given **prior** to the patient availing of the treatment abroad. Valid applications will be processed within 15 to 20 working days and a decision will be issued via letter. Appointments should not be scheduled prior to a decision to approve being confirmed on an application. Appointments that are made prior to decision will have no bearing on the review process or its expedition.

Pursuant to his/her clinical evaluation of the patient (in person) within the immediately preceding 2 week period, the Irish based referring hospital consultant must provide details of the patient's condition, the specific treatment being applied for and the provider of the treatment abroad. Once the patient has availed of an approved treatment abroad, the care of the patient reverts immediately to the referring Irish Consultant.

Treatment available within the state or available within a time normally necessary for obtaining same do not qualify under the criteria for funding under the Treatment Abroad Scheme.

The following must be certified by the Irish based referring Consultant:-

- Their recommendation that the patient be treated in another EU/EEA country/Switzerland/the UK and the reason for same;
- That the specific treatment that the patient is to receive outside the State is not available within the State;
- That the treatment is medically necessary and will meet the patient's needs;
- That the treatment is a proven form of medical treatment and is not experimental or test treatment;
- That the treatment is in a recognised hospital or other institution and is under the control of a registered medical practitioner;
- That the hospital in the EU/EEA/Switzerland/the UK will accept EU/EEA form S2 for the costs associated with treating the patient under TAS. I.E. the hospital to which the patient is being referred is a public hospital that will

accept a public patient under the terms of the TAS.

The information on the application form is the minimum data set required to process an application. All applications not fully completed will be returned without exception as same cannot be processed against the qualifying criteria.

Self-referrals, referrals from a General Practitioner or from a medical practitioner from outside the state will deem any application invalid and not applicable for review by the Treatment Abroad Scheme.

Please return completed forms to:-

*Treatment Abroad Scheme Office,
Health Service Executive,
Seville Lodge,
Callan Road,
Kilkenny.
R95 DKK2*

Contact numbers for the Treatment Abroad Scheme:

Telephone: 056 778 4900/ 056 778 4908

Fax: 056 7784549

Email: treatmentabroad.scheme@hse.ie

Webpage: <https://www2.hse.ie/services/treatment-abroad-scheme/treatment-abroad-scheme.html>

Completion of Application Form: Applicant/Patient

No liability shall attach to the Health Service Executive, its servants or agents, in respect of any costs or expenses incurred by the Patient or Applicant prior to a determination by the Health Service Executive on this application and the results of such determination being communicated to the Applicant. Any arrangements made by the Applicant or Patient prior to such determination may not subsequently be ratified by the Health Service Executive, and may invalidate the application. A decision can be expected between 15 and 20 working days following the receipt of a completed application and any other information/clarification requested.

The patient/applicant must submit a fully completed application form accompanied by the appropriate referring Consultant's letter to the accepting consultant in a public hospital abroad in sufficient time to allow the HSE assess and make a decision on same. The onus is on the patient to submit a fully completed application form and to provide the necessary information from the referring Consultant. Incomplete applications will be returned to the patient/applicant for provision of the appropriate information prior to re-submitting to the TAS office.

Section A

This part of the application is to be fully completed by the patient/applicant.

All parts of Section A must be completed; if a question is not relevant to you please mark same N/A e.g. if you do not hold a medical card mark that section N/A (not applicable).

Where a patient is under 16 years of age the application is to be submitted on his/her behalf by a Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Where a patient is under 18 years of age and being treated for a mental disorder covered by the Mental Health Act 2001, the application is to be submitted on his/her behalf by a Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Where a patient is incapacitated the application may be submitted on his/her behalf by the Committee of the Ward of Court following the approval of the Court.

Private patients should apply to their private health insurance provider in the first instance and the decision letter and or appeal decision letter of the private health insurance provider submitted with any application to the TAS.

When the application form has been fully completed and signed Section A by the patient and Section B by the treating consultant, please return it complete with the referring consultant's signed referral letter (on letterhead) to the above mentioned TAS Office. The application will be assessed and a decision will be issued within 15 to 20 working days or as soon as possible thereafter.

Decisions

The TAS Office will review applications to ensure they comply with the criteria as set out above.

During the processing of an application, TAS staff will only be able to confirm the estimated date for issue of a decision. When an application has been processed, the decision on same will be issued by letter and it is only after the decision letter has been issued that TAS staff are permitted to inform the applicant (and only the applicant) of the decision by phone.

Please note that the HSE may provide for the cost of reasonable economic air fares for the patient and one escort (where applicable) in accordance with the HSE Treatment Abroad Scheme National Travel Policy. A copy of the policy is attached.

APPLICATION FORM FOR ASSISTANCE TOWARDS THE COST OF MEDICAL TREATMENT OUTSIDE THE STATE

No liability shall attach to the Health Service Executive, its servants or agents, in respect of any costs or expenses incurred by the Patient or Applicant on this application and the results of such determination being communicated to the Applicant. Any arrangements made by the Applicant or Patient prior to such determination may not subsequently be ratified by the Health Service Executive and may invalidate the application.

In submitting this application form (complete or incomplete) I, as the applicant, give my permission for my/the patient's medical records or other clinical information to be accessed and copied for the purposes of processing the application. I understand and accept the clinical information can and may be provided to other hospitals or health care facilities or clinical advisors in the assessment of the application and in the availing of any approved treatment. In signing my name hereunder I acknowledge and accept this position and give my consent for same.

Applicant's signature (or parent/guardian in the case of a
minor under 16/18 if being treated for a mental health disorder)

Date

Applicant's signature (or parent/guardian in the case of a
minor under 16/18 if being treated for a mental health disorder)

Date

SECTION A (to be completed in full by Patient/Applicant)

FORENAME:		SURNAME:	
SURNAME ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE:		DATE OF BIRTH:	
GENDER	MALE <input type="checkbox"/>	FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
ADDRESS:			
TEL NO.:		MOBILE NO.:	
PPS / RSI NO.:		MEDICAL CARD NO.:	
NAME OF PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY:			
MEMBERSHIP NO:			
HAVE YOU APPLIED TO YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY FOR FUNDING?			
IF YES, HAS FUNDING BEEN APPROVED BY YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY? Please submit a copy of the decision letter with your application			
NAME OF PATIENT'S GP:			
GP's ADDRESS:			
GP's TELEPHONE NUMBER:			

Only complete the section below if you are making an application on behalf of a Patient under 16 years of age or over 16 years of age and dependent.

RELATIONSHIP TO PATIENT:		
FORENAME:	SURNAME:	
ADDRESS:		
TEL NO.:	MOBILE NO.:	
RELATIONSHIP TO PATIENT:		
FORENAME:	SURNAME:	
ADDRESS:		
TEL NO.:	MOBILE NO.:	
NAME OF PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY:	MEMBERSHIP NO.:	
HAVE YOU APPLIED TO YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY FOR FUNDING?		
IF YES, HAS FUNDING BEEN APPROVED BY YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY? Please submit a copy of the decision letter with your application		

FOR ALL APPLICANTS - Please ensure the following section is completed:

I declare that the above particulars are, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct and that I have read the memorandum to the application and understand the qualifying criteria of the scheme. I am aware that any decision issued is based on the information submitted by me in my application and that any new information coming to light may impact on the decision in this case.

I acknowledge that the decision given will be based on the request for the particular treatment specified on the application and any additional or future treatment will require additional application to the TAS.

I understand that this is merely an application for the issue of EU/EEA model Form S2 and that at this stage no commitment has been entered into by the Health Service Executive.

I also agree to notify or to arrange to notify the HSE immediately should there be any change in the medical treatment plans, costs or dates indicated, or non-attendance for same or if I or my dependants change personal details including name, address, contact details, or takes up employment outside Ireland.

Applicant's signature *(or parent/guardian in the case of a minor under 16/18 if being treated for a mental health disorder)*

Date

Applicant's signature *(or parent/guardian in the case of a minor under 16/18 if being treated for a mental health disorder)*

Date

Is the patient a victim of a road traffic accident or other accidental injury? YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, is there a claim for compensation against a third party? YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, please provide the details of your solicitor:

Solicitors name and address (acting for the patient):

Please note that solicitors who are making a legal claim for compensation on behalf of victims of road traffic accidents or other accidental injuries are required to include in the claim the cost of treatment received outside the state, as provided by the HSE Treatment Abroad Scheme, resulting from the road traffic accident or accidental injury. However, please note that it is the patient who is obliged to make sure that the treatment costs provided by the HSE under the Treatment Abroad Scheme are reimbursed to the HSE. Unsuccessful claims must be brought to the attention of the HSE Treatment Abroad Scheme.

I agree to repay to the HSE the gross amount of the money spent by the HSE when the claim I am pursuing against a third party has been finalised.

Applicant's signature (or parent/guardian in the case of a minor under 16/18 if being treated for a mental health disorder)

Date

Applicant's signature (or parent/guardian in the case of a minor under 16/18 if being treated for a mental health disorder)

Date

Completion of Application Form: Irish Based Public Referring Consultant (public patient):

Only applications completed and submitted **within a two week period following clinical assessment of the patient** will be accepted under the scheme. Once the patient has availed of treatment abroad, their care reverts immediately to the Irish based public referring consultant.

Please also note that in general the purpose of the application is to allow a public patient to seek public funding for a treatment not available in Ireland. In completing this application form you must ensure the information you provide is accurate and true. The inclusion of false, misleading or inaccurate information including the omission by design or by accident of relevant information, will mean the TAS will reserve the right to refer the matter to the appropriate authority and reimbursement to the HSE of any funding accessed will be sought without exception from the responsible party. The TAS reserves the right to review a patient's medical chart to clarify any information as appropriate.

The Consultant must fully complete the application form and supply a copy of the referral letter to the accepting consultant abroad giving details of the patient's medical condition and the type of treatment envisaged ***In compliance with their duty of care the application must be completed by the referring consultant pursuant to his/her clinical assessment of the patient thus confirming it is the Consultant's recommendation based on this clinical review that the patient requires the treatment. Only applications completed and submitted within a two week period following clinical assessment of the patient will be accepted under the schemes. Physicians referring paediatric patients abroad must satisfy himself/herself as to the compliance of the service abroad with Children First guidelines and legislation. Physicians must satisfy themselves that the proposed treatment has been consented to in accordance with the HSE National Consent Policy and all relevant legislation.***

- Referrals must be on the basis of medical necessity and to the public healthcare system of another EU/EEA member state, Switzerland or the UK through the issue of model form S2. i.e. the hospital to which the patient is being referred is a public hospital that will accept a public patient under the terms of the TAS.
- Applications must be accompanied by a detailed clinical referral letter to the accepting consultant abroad giving details and history of the patient's condition and the type of treatment envisaged. Certain applications also require the inclusion of a copy of the relevant MDT report.
- The onus is on the consultant to seek, provide and certify the answers to each question in Section B.
- Applications must be made and a decision given in advance of the patient travelling abroad. Decision on applications will be based on the medical information provided in line with the regulations, guidelines and criteria of the scheme. Appointments made in advance of submission of an application will not be used as a deciding factor in applications. The Treatment Abroad Scheme and Prior Authorisation Scheme offices will aim to provide a decision within 20 working days of receipt of a completed application.

SECTION B (To be completed in full by referring Consultant)

NAME OF REFERRING CONSULTANT:
NAME OF REFERRING HOSPITAL:
PATIENT NAME:
PATIENT ADDRESS:
DATE OF BIRTH: ____/____/____
PLEASE STATE WHETHER THE PATIENT IS ATTENDING YOU IN A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CAPACITY:
DATE WHEN THE PATIENT WAS LAST REVIEWED BY YOU AS AN INPATIENT OR OUTPATIENT (THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE REVIEW BY A MEMBER OF YOUR TEAM) (Must be within the previous 2 weeks of application being completed)

Is the treatment abroad being provided in a recognised hospital
or other institution which is under the control of a Registered
Medical Practitioner?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Is that hospital a public hospital available to National Health
Agencies for Public Patients in that country?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Will the Hospital accept EU/EEA model Form S2 or
Certificate of Authorisation to cover Hospital expenses?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Has Consent to treatment been obtained?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If a minor (under 16 or under 18 if being treated for a mental
disorder under the Mental Health Act 2001), has consent been
obtained?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Will the Patient be in a Public Ward?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Will the Patient attend as a Public Out-Patient?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Please set out here under a summary of the condition from which the patient suffers:

Please identify the specific treatment that the patient requires outside the state:

Is this treatment available within the State?

YES

☐

NO

☐

If YES, please indicate the reasons for the application for the treatment abroad:

Please state whether the results of test, scans, biopsies, blood work etc. could be provided to the hospital outside the state to provide their assessment

YES

☐

NO

☐

If YES, please specify why the patient is required to travel outside the state:

Is the treatment medically necessary?

YES

☐

NO

☐

Will the treatment meet the patient's needs?

YES

☐

NO

☐

Is this treatment contrary to the Irish Constitution or any legislation, to your knowledge?

YES

☐

NO

☐

Is the treatment regarded as a proven form of medical attention and not experimental or test treatment?

YES

☐

NO

☐

Is the treatment required as a result of injuries received in a road traffic accident or other accidental injury?

YES

☐

NO

☐

Will the patient need to be accompanied?

YES

☐

NO

☐

If YES, please outline the medical reasons for same:

NAME OF ACCEPTING CONSULTANT (outside the State)	
NAME OF ACCEPTING HOSPITAL (outside the State)	

Estimated cost of treatment:	
Proposed date of admission (if known):	
Probable duration of stay:	
Probable date(s) of Out-Patient Department visit(s):	

Treatment Abroad Recommended

YES ☐

NO ☐

THE CARE OF A PATIENT WHO HAS AVAILED OF TREATMENT ABROAD UNDER THE TAS SCHEME, REVERTS TO THE REFERRING CONSULTANT IMMEDIATELY UPON THE PATIENT'S RETURN TO IRELAND

I declare that the above particulars are, to the best of my knowledge true and correct and that I have read the memorandum to the application and understand the qualifying criteria of the scheme. I am aware that the application will be based on this information and that any new information coming to light may impact on the decision in this case.

It is policy of the HSE to ensure that therapeutic and medical facilities abroad where children are placed are fully compliant with their local child protection laws and policies and that they are signatories to the Hague Convention. In signing this application form, I the referring consultant, confirm that I am satisfied the facility to which I am referring this child meets the requirements of the policy.

I understand that this is merely an application for the issue of EU/EEA model Form S2 and that at this stage no commitment has been entered into by the Health Service Executive.

I acknowledge that the HSE's TAS reserve the right to access the hospital records on this patient as deemed necessary.

Signature of Referring Consultant: _____

Date: _____

A Guide to the Treatment Abroad Scheme



What is the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS)?

The HSE operates a Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) for public patients entitled to treatment in another EU/EEA member state, Switzerland or the UK. Under the scheme, a patient who is normally resident in Ireland can be referred for treatment in the specified countries by a consultant if the treatment is not available in Ireland and once the qualifying criteria are met.



What are the qualifying criteria for the TAS?

1. The treatment must be medically necessary.

Medical necessity is demonstrated in a number of ways but the most important way is through a referral letter from a consultant in Ireland. You must include a copy of the referral letter with your application form before the application can be processed. This must be on hospital letterhead, be addressed to the accepting consultant abroad, and be signed by your referring consultant.

A referral letter of itself does not entitle a patient to funding under the TAS.

2. You must be a public patient in Ireland.

Private patients should apply to their private health insurance provider, which organises access to healthcare abroad in the same way as the TAS. However, if the private health insurance provider declines your request for assistance, you may apply to the TAS and your application will be given consideration. A copy of the decline and appeals correspondence from the private health insurance provider should be included with your application.

3. The treatment must be considered a proven form of treatment.

An unproven or experimental treatment may, for a variety of reasons, be offered to public patients in another EU/EEA country, Switzerland or the UK; this does not mean the treatment is no longer unproven or experimental. The HSE will decide on the basis of clinical advice whether the treatment in question is a proven treatment or not for the purpose of funding under the TAS.

4. The treatment being applied for must be a treatment which you could legally avail of in the public healthcare system in Ireland, if the treatment was available in Ireland.

Some treatments are available in the private healthcare system in Ireland but not in the public healthcare system as the treatments are not deemed medically necessary, e.g. certain cosmetic surgery etc. So this provision also extends to treatments which are or would be funded by the HSE for public patients in Ireland.

5. You must have authorisation from the HSE before accessing the healthcare.

You must receive prior authorisation in advance of accessing any part of the healthcare abroad in order to be eligible for funding under the TAS. This is a fundamental provision of the EU Regulation and if you do not receive prior authorisation before accessing the treatment, you will not be eligible for funding under the TAS.

Note: there are exceptions to the prior authorisation rule, e.g. a patient who requires emergency transfer for a life-saving intervention which is not scheduled, e.g. ECMO, paediatric heart transplant or a paediatric liver transplant.

6. **The treatment will be provided in a recognised public hospital facility abroad.** Only public hospitals can accept an E112 (or S2), which is the mechanism by which the HSE pays the country abroad for the treatment.



How do I apply?

To apply for funding for treatment under the TAS, you must be attending a consultant in Ireland in a public capacity. It will be the consultant's decision whether or not to submit an application to the TAS.



During your treatment with a consultant, the consultant may recognise or decide that you require a treatment which he/she or the hospital cannot provide. Often such treatments are available in specialist or tertiary centres in Ireland. The majority of healthcare that patients require is available in Ireland; it is only very rare cases that will require travel to the EU/EEA/Switzerland / the UK for a treatment which is not available in Ireland. The patient must be attending the consultant on a regular and current basis in person. Telemedicine including web conference cannot be used for the purpose of an application to the TAS.

Questions to be addressed before submitting an application:

- Have all the avenues of treatment available in Ireland been exhausted?
- Can it be demonstrated that all avenues of treatment in Ireland have been exhausted? If so, make sure you include evidence of this with your application form.
- Has a specific treatment been identified? In order for an application to be examined against the qualifying criteria, the specific treatment must be identified.
- Has a specific doctor in a public hospital abroad been identified that could provide the treatment? If so, has a referral been made?

Making an application

The application form for the TAS is quite simple. It is broken down into two distinct sections. Section A is completed by the patient and records basic personal information. Section B is completed by the patient's referring consultant in Ireland. In section B, the consultant must identify the treatment he/she is referring the patient abroad for.

In a situation where the consultant is seeking to refer a patient to a specialist centre abroad for a treatment which is not specifically identified, the consultant should include evidence from the relevant clinical specialists in that field in Ireland. The evidence should demonstrate that the specialists have reviewed either the patient and/or the patient's medical notes and are of the opinion that further specialist input is required.

Identifying a patient's condition is not sufficient for the TAS application; the consultant must identify the treatment. It is the availability of the treatment in Ireland which will determine the approval or otherwise of the application.



In some cases, more technologically advanced treatments are available in other EU/EEA countries, Switzerland or the UK. This does not mean that an application will be approved. If a less advanced treatment is available in Ireland then there is no automatic right to access the more technologically advanced treatment abroad. In these instances, patients use the Cross Border Directive to access the more technologically advanced treatment. (See the Cross Border Directive webpage):

<https://www2.hse.ie/services/schemes-allowances/cross-border-directive/>

Any approval given will be specific to the treatment identified on the application form. If the treatment requires a number of different episodes of care then we advise that all the anticipated episodes of care are listed. For example, if the patient will require an outpatient assessment (1st episode of care), a surgery (2nd episode of care) and a follow-up assessment (3rd episode of care) then all should be listed on the application form so that additional applications are not required for each one.

Submitting an application



Fax



E-mail



Mail



Add Directly

You must submit a fully completed application form along with a copy of the referral letter from your consultant. You can submit your application form by post, email or fax.



The TAS office checks each application to ensure it is fully completed and includes a copy of the consultant's referral letter. In the case of a private patient, the TAS office will also check to ensure a copy of the decision and appeal letter from the private health insurance provider is also included.

Applications which are incomplete are returned to the patient to be fully completed and resubmitted.



Application Process

A fully completed application form is recorded on the TAS database. It is examined and, based on the treatment identified, it is sent to a panel of clinical advisors that the TAS use to determine if the treatment is a proven treatment, is clinically necessary, that the treatment or an equivalent treatment is not available in Ireland and is not contrary to Irish legislation. If the application refers to a treatment which is available in Ireland, the TAS may not require independent clinical advice and the decision will be issued almost immediately.

An application is required to meet all the criteria for the scheme.

It can take up to 20 working days to process an application; however, the majority of cases are processed within a much shorter timeframe. The 20 day processing period may be necessary to allow for the clinical advice to TAS.

Decisions on applications are issued in writing to the patient and the referring consultant.

What if an application is declined?

If an application is declined, the patient is automatically given the right to appeal.



Making an appeal

All decline letters explain the reason an application has been declined. You should consider the reasons for the decline before submitting the appeal.

An appeal should be made within 10 working days from the date of the decline letter. If you cannot submit the appeal before that date, you should contact the TAS office and seek an extension.

In making the appeal, consider the reasons the application was declined. If possible, include any and all documentation that would address the reason the application was declined and support a reversal of the decision.

Appeals are submitted to:
Assistant National Director,
Commercial Unit,
Acute Hospitals Division, HSE,
Office 3,
Kilcreene,
Kilkenny
R95DK07

The Appeals Process



The appeals officer will review the entire file including the original application and the appeals documentation. If necessary, the appeals officer will access your hospital medical record (this is rarely required).

The appeals officer will examine if the original decision was correct based on the information submitted at the application stage.

The appeals officer will also examine if new information submitted at the appeals stage now addresses the criteria under which the original decline decision was issued. Sometimes the appeals officer requires certain other evidence/documentation which is usually requested in writing.

The appeals officer usually accesses further independent clinical advice for the purpose of the appeal.

An appeal decision is issued within 10 working days unless there is a delay in receiving clarifications.

An approved application



The majority of applications are approved. When an application is processed and approved, a letter is issued to the patient and copied to the referring consultant.

When you receive your approval letter, you can accept an appointment you may be offered by the service abroad. When you have an appointment date, you must submit the appointment date to the TAS office so that they can issue an S2 form.

An E112 form is the mechanism by which the HSE pays the government abroad for the treatment the patient is accessing. An S2 form is issued in triplicate: one copy to the patient, one to the hospital abroad and one to the competent institution (the department of the government abroad, which will ultimately issue the invoice to the HSE).

Treatment abroad

When a patient is approved for a treatment and the E112 form is issued, that approval is specific to the treatment applied for. Once that specific treatment or episode of care is completed, the patient reverts to the care of the consultant that referred the patient from Ireland.

When a patient is discharged abroad, a discharge letter is issued to the consultant in Ireland who referred the patient. The consultant in Ireland then becomes responsible for the patient again and is also responsible for organising any follow up care here in Ireland.

What happens if further treatment abroad is required?

For most patients, one episode of care abroad is all that is required. However, for others, additional or ongoing care may be required. This is a very rare occurrence but it may happen.



- Additional care abroad
 - If the consultant abroad determines that additional care is required over and above that which was applied for and approved, the consultant abroad will contact the referring consultant in Ireland. The referring consultant will in turn contact the TAS and request approval for the additional care. Any identified additional care is subject to the same criteria as the original approved treatment. Decisions on additional care are usually given within the shortest possible timeframe.
- Ongoing care abroad
 - Some patients require to attend a service abroad for specific periods of time, for example for an annual review. In these circumstances, each episode of care requires a new application to be submitted, but this is dependent on the specifics of the case.

Second or Specialist Opinion

In general the TAS does not fund access to second or specialist opinion. Second or specialist opinion can be easily accessed under the provisions of the Cross Border Directive (CBD).

Also, consultants seeking second or specialist opinion should consider using the expertise available through European Reference Networks which were established under the CBD.

<https://euracan.eu/who-we-are/about-erns/>

These networks seek to share knowledge, provide advice on diagnosis and treatment through virtual consultations between healthcare providers across Europe, and thus raise standards of care.

Access to treatment in a non-EU/EEA country



There is no entitlement to funding for healthcare in a non- EU/EEA country Switzerland or UK.

All applications to the TAS for healthcare outside the EU/EEA Switzerland or UK are automatically declined and are sent straight to the appeals process.

An application for funding of healthcare in a non-EU/EEA country (plus Switzerland and UK) requires documentary evidence of the non-availability of the healthcare or an equivalent healthcare in the EU/EEA / Switzerland / the UK as well as in Ireland. There is no entitlement to such funding so any such funding is at the discretion of the appeals officer in the HSE.

Travel



The EU Regulations do not include a right to travel or subsistence expenses incurred when accessing healthcare abroad. However, the HSE does reimburse the flight or sea fares of the patient and in the case of a child the flights/sea fares of two accompanying adults are also reimbursed.

Undue Delay

There is a provision in the EU Regulations that allows a patient who is experiencing undue delay in receiving treatment to access that treatment under the TAS. However, since then, the European Commission has transposed the Cross Border Healthcare Directive specifically to deal with patients experiencing undue delay. While the provision for undue delay remains in the TAS criteria, it is not recommended as the most appropriate mechanism as the “bar” for accessing healthcare on the basis of undue delay via the TAS is very high. The patient’s treating consultant is required to evidence how the patient’s condition will deteriorate beyond a point which can be achieved by an earlier intervention.

Incomplete applications

The TAS application records the minimum dataset the TAS office requires in order to process an application against the qualifying criteria.

The TAS office will return incomplete applications to the patient, outlining the information needed.

Amended or adjusted application forms

It is not acceptable for the TAS application or the conditions of application thereon to be amended or adjusted. Any such amendment or adjustment to the application form will render the application invalid and no further consideration will be given to it.

Inaccurate, misleading or false information

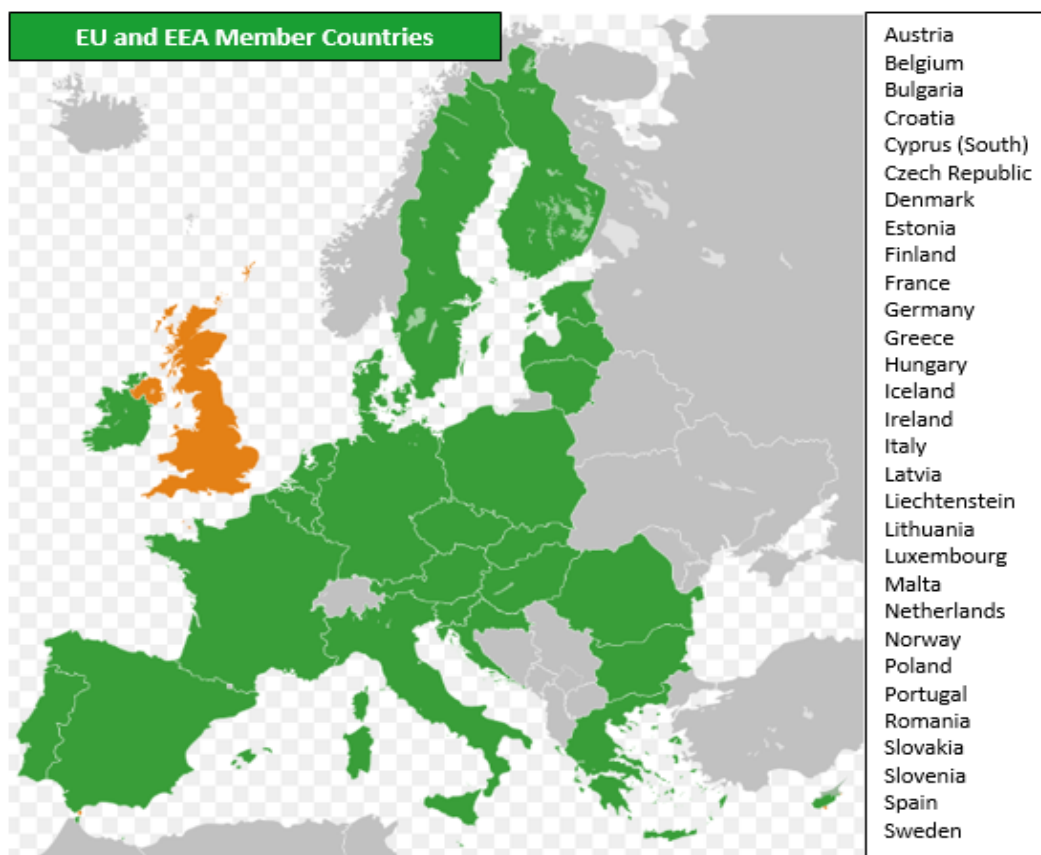
In submitting an application to the TAS, a patient and consultant are certifying that the information on the application form is accurate and true. An application to the TAS is an application for public funding. In an instance where an application is submitted and the TAS becomes aware at any time including in the future that information on the application form is inaccurate, untrue or misleading, the TAS will immediately cancel any E112 issued and advise the hospital abroad that the patient is liable for the costs incurred. Furthermore, it is the policy of the TAS to advise the appropriate authority which may include Internal Audit, the IMO and/or An Garda Síochána of the false misleading or inaccurate information.

A Guide to the Treatment Abroad Scheme for Consultants

What is the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS)?

This is a European scheme which the HSE operates in Ireland. It allows you to refer your eligible public patients to another EU/EEA member state, Switzerland or the UK for a treatment that is not available in Ireland.

Please see the map for the list of TAS countries.



How does a patient qualify for TAS?

An application must meet **all** of the following conditions to be eligible for approval:

- As the referring consultant, you must outline why the patient needs to be treated in another country.
- You must identify the specific treatment that the patient is to receive which is not available in Ireland. It is not enough to identify the patient's condition even if it is a rare disease.

- The treatment must be medically necessary as understood in the context of the provisions of publicly funded healthcare, and meet the patient's needs.
- The treatment must be a proven form of medical treatment and not an unproven, experimental or test treatment.
- The treatment must be provided in a recognised public hospital or other institution under the control of a registered medical practitioner.
- The accepting hospital must accept Model Form S2 (formerly called E112 (IE) for the costs associated with treating the patient. Only public hospitals can accept an S2 as a mechanism of payment.

Who can refer a patient for treatment abroad?

For a TAS application, only the current treating consultant in Ireland can refer the patient. The patient cannot self-refer or be recalled by a consultant abroad.

The patient must be a public patient in Ireland

If the patient is attending the consultant as a private patient, the patient should apply to his/her private health insurance provider, which can fund access to healthcare abroad in the same way as TAS. If the private health insurance provider turns down the request, then an application may be made to TAS and we will consider the application. The application must include a copy of the decline letter and appeals correspondence from the private health insurance provider.

Can I transfer my patient's care abroad?

No. Each application under TAS is for a specific episode of care. You cannot transfer the patient's care on an ongoing or indefinite basis to a service or consultant abroad.

On the application, you must specify the treatment for which you are referring the patient abroad. In certain circumstances, you may identify a number of episodes of care, for example an assessment, a surgery and one follow-up appointment.

However, as soon as the patient is discharged from the episode of care abroad, the patient comes back under your clinical management. You are responsible for organising

any follow-up care in Ireland (for example, physiotherapy) in the same way as if the treatment had been received in Ireland.

Can my patient access treatment abroad while waiting on a TAS decision?

No. Under TAS rules, an application must be made and a decision given **before** the patient accesses any element of the care abroad including an outpatient assessment.

If a patient accesses the care before a decision is given, the application is automatically declined. In such cases, the patient would have the right to seek reimbursement under the Cross Border Directive. For more information on the Cross Border Directive, see <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/schemes/cbd/>

How do I make an application?

You can download an application form from

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/schemes/treatmentabroad/apply.html> or request one from the TAS office (Email: TreatmentAbroad.Scheme@hse.ie).

The application form has two parts. The patient completes Section A and you complete Section B. Both sections must be completed in full. You must sign the application form and referral letter, not a junior doctor, secretary or anyone else on your behalf. The referral letter must be on hospital letterhead, and addressed to the accepting consultant abroad.

Please note the following when completing the application form:

- You must identify the specific treatment so that we can process the application and issue a decision.
- You must make sure the treatment is not available in Ireland. If you are not sure, you should contact the tertiary services for advice or the relevant specialists in the RCSI, RSPI and so on.
- You must identify the cost of the treatment abroad. We need this because the HSE uses accrual accounting. We receive invoices for TAS treatments months and

years in arrears. By using accrual accounting, we can account for the costs of treatments which will be received some time in the future and budget accordingly.

- You should include all foreseeable episodes of care associated with the treatment, for example an outpatient assessment, a surgery and one follow-up consultation. If you don't do this, you will have to make additional applications for each further episode of care.
- You should include all the information requested. We will return incomplete application forms to the patient for completion.
- Do not amend or make changes on the application form. We will consider an amended application form as invalid and will not consider it.
- Make sure all the information is accurate. If we become aware at any time, including in the future, that information on the application form is false or misleading, we will immediately cancel any S2 form issued and advise the hospital abroad that the patient is liable for the costs incurred. We may also notify the appropriate authority, including Internal Audit, the IMO and/or An Garda Siochana, about the false or misleading information.

Please send the application form and referral letter to the TAS office in enough time to allow assessment and decision before the patient travels abroad.

HSE Treatment Abroad Scheme, Seville Lodge, Callan Road, Kilkenny, R95 DKK2
Fax: 056 778 4549
Email: treatmentabroad.scheme@hse.ie
[Phone: 056-7784900 / 4908](tel:056-7784900)

What happens if the hospital abroad recommends additional treatment?

Requests for additional treatments, examinations or consultations which may arise while the patient is attending the hospital abroad are not included in the approval or in the costs that the HSE has agreed to pay. If the patient avails of the additional treatment, examination or consultation, the patient will be responsible for paying the costs.

However, the hospital abroad can contact the referring consultant and you can seek additional approval from the TAS for such additional treatment which is also subject to the criteria of the Scheme.

How are decisions made on TAS funding?

Over the years, TAS has built up a knowledge bank of treatments commonly applied for which are unavailable in Ireland (for example, Deep Brain Stimulation). These applications usually get automatic approval.

Where the treatment in question is not identified for automatic approval, we will send the application and referral letter to an independent medical assessor for advice. Please note that the medical assessors are not decision-makers. The TAS staff are the decision makers on TAS applications.

When will a decision be made?

It takes about 15 to 20 working days to process an application provided we have all the information we need on the application form and in the referral letter. We will send our decision letter to both you and the patient. Please note that TAS office staff cannot confirm a decision before the decision letter is sent.

What happens when the application is approved?

Once the patient receives the approval letter, they can accept an appointment from the hospital abroad. The patient must send the letter with the appointment date to the TAS office which will issue an S2 form.

What is an S2 form?

The S2 form is the mechanism by which the HSE pays the government abroad for the treatment. S2 forms need the dates of treatment and so cannot be issued without the appointment letter from the hospital abroad. One copy of the S2 is sent to the patient, one to the hospital abroad and one to the government agency abroad which will invoice the HSE.

What happens if the application is turned down?

We will write to both you and the patient explaining why the application was turned down. The decision can be appealed within 10 working days (we will extend this on request).

When making an appeal, please include information which specifically addresses the reason the application was turned down. For example, if an application was declined because the treatment is available in Ireland with another named service or consultant, you should first refer the patient to that service or consultant and include evidence from them as to why they cannot provide the treatment to the patient.

Can I refer a patient for more advanced treatment abroad?

There is no entitlement to TAS funding for treatments which are available in Ireland but for which there is a more advanced treatment abroad. Patients who want to access more sophisticated or technologically advanced treatment abroad should use the Cross Border Directive (CBD). You can find out more about the CBD at

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/schemes/cbd/cbd.html>

Can I refer a patient for a second or specialist opinion?

TAS cannot fund applications for second or specialist opinions. You should first look for a specialist or second opinion from the relevant tertiary specialist in Ireland. You should also consider accessing the relevant European Reference Network (ERN) for specialist advice.

Can I refer to a Multi-Disciplinary Team abroad?

You cannot use TAS to access multi-disciplinary team assessment abroad. The HSE published a guide to multi-disciplinary teams which is available on www.hse.ie/go/clinicalgovernance to support hospitals, departments or services co-ordinating multi-disciplinary activity in their own setting.

What are European Reference Networks (ERNs)?

ERNs are unique and innovative cross-border co-operation platforms between specialists for the diagnosis and treatment of rare or low prevalence complex diseases. They were established on 1 March 2017.

ERNs serve as research and knowledge centres, updating and contributing to the latest scientific findings. In general, it is not envisaged that patients would travel to ERNs for treatment but rather that doctors treating patients with rare diseases would use the ERNs as a resource for expert advice and guidance.

In some circumstances, a patient may access an ERN hospital in person. However, funding for this would come under the Cross Border Directive, not TAS.

There are 24 ERNs across Europe covering a wide range of conditions (see table below). Each ERN has a co-ordinator funded by the European Commission.

	ERN	Network Co-ordinator
1	ERN on endocrine conditions (Endo-ERN)	Professor Alberto M. Pereira, Leiden University Medical Centre, The Netherlands
2	ERN on kidney diseases (ERKNet)	Professor Franz Schaefer Univesitatsklinikum Heidelberg, Germany
3	ERN on bone disorders (ERN BOND)	Dr. Luca Sangiori Rizzoli Orthopaedic Institute, Bologna, Italy
4	ERN on craniofacial anomalies and ENT disorders (ERN CRANIO)	Professor Irene Mathijssen Erasmus MC: University Medical Centre Rotterdam, The Netherlands
5	ERN on epilepsies (EpiCARE)	Professor Alexis Arzimanoglou Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Lyon CHU Lyon France
6	ERN on adult cancers (solid	Professor Jean-Yves Blay

	tumours) (ERN EURACAN)	Centre Leon Berard, Lyon, France
7	ERN on haematological diseases (EuroBloodNET)	Professor Pierre Fenaux Assistance Publique, Hopitaux de Paris Hospital Saint-Louis, France
8	ERN on urogenital diseases and conditions (ERN eUROGEN)	Professor Wout Feitz Radboud University Medical Center Nijmegen, The Netherlands
9	ERN on neuromuscular diseases (ERN Euro-NMD)	Professor Kate Bushby The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, United Kingdom
10	ERN on eye diseases (ERN EYE)	Professor Helene Dollfus Hopitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg, France
11	ERN on genetic tumour risk syndromes (ERN GENTURIS)	Professor Nicoline Hoogerbrugge Radboud University Medical Centre Nijmegen, The Netherlands
12	ERN on diseases of the heart (ERN GUARD-HEART)	Professor Arthur Wilde Academic Medical Centre Amsterdam, The Netherlands
13	ERN on inherited and congenital abnormalities (ERNICA)	Professor Rene Wijnen Erasmus Medical Center Rotterdam, The Netherlands
14	ERN on congenital malformations and rare intellectual disability (ERN ITHACA)	Professor Alain Verloes Assistance Pulbique – Hopitaux de Paris Hopital Robert-Debre, Paris, France
15	ERN on respiratory diseases (ERN LUNG)	Professor Thomas Wagner Universitätsklinikum Frankfurt, Germany
16	ERN on paediatric cancer (haemato-oncology) (ERN	Professor Ruth Ladenstein St. Anna Kinderspital and St. Anna

	PaedCan)	Kinderkrebsforschung, Austria
17	ERN on hepatological diseases (ERN RARE-LIVER)	Professor Ansgar Lohse Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany
18	ERN on connective tissue and musculoskeletal diseases (ERN ReConnect)	Professor Marta Mosca Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Pisana, Italy
19	ERN on immunodeficiency, autoinflammatory and autoimmune diseases (ERN RITA)	Professor Nico Martinus Wulffraat University Medical Center, Utrecht, The Netherlands
20	ERN on neurological diseases (ERN-RND)	Dr. Holm Graessner Institute of Medical Genetic and Applied Genomics Universitätsklinikum Tübingen, Germany
21	ERN on skin disorders (ERN Skin)	Professor Christine Bodemer Assistance Publique, Hôpitaux de Paris Hôpital Necker-Enfants Malades, France
22	ERN on transplantation in children (ERN TRASNSPLANT- CHILD)	Dr. Paloma Jara Vega Hospital Universitario La Paz, Spain
23	ERN on hereditary metabolic disorders (MetabERN)	Professor Maurizio Scarpa Helios Dr Horst Schmidt Kliniken, Germany
24	ERN on multisystemic vascular diseases (VASCERN)	Professor Guillaume Jondeau Assistance Publique, Hôpitaux de Paris Hôpital Bicêtre, France

You can find out more about ERNs on:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/rare_diseases/european_reference_networks/erf_en

When should I not make an application to TAS?

Please do not apply for TAS funding if any of the following apply:

- You do not recommend the referral.
- You have not reviewed the patient recently.
- A patient, parent or advocate has asked for referral and you do not recommend it.
- The treatment is an unproven treatment or part of a clinical trial.
- The treatment being sought is not provided for under Irish law.
- The treatment is available in Ireland.
- Where the treatment in question is a more technologically advanced treatment of a treatment which is available in Ireland.

Please note: If you complete an application form under the conditions outlined above, you will be creating an unrealistic expectation for the patient that the application will be approved. It will be up to you to manage that expectation.