



Medical Care

What is the Medical Care Scheme?

If you are insured and you are injured at work or you contract a prescribed occupational disease, you may get benefits under the Occupational Injuries Scheme. One of these benefits is Medical Care.

The Medical Care Scheme allows you to get a refund of the costs of medical care and attention that are not covered by the Health Service Executive (HSE) or under the Treatment Benefit Scheme.

How do I qualify for refunds under the Medical Care Scheme?

To qualify for a refund of medical cost:

- your injury must have been caused by an accident at work. We include here an accident while on an unbroken journey to or from work,
- or
- as a result of work you have contracted a prescribed occupational disease. For further information and the full list of occupational diseases, log on to www.welfare.ie,
- and
- you must have PRSI contributions at Class A, B, D, J or M. In the case of PRSI Class B contributions, only expenses incurred subsequent to 26 weeks after the accident or development of the disease can be covered.

Important

Not all work accidents or occupational diseases may result immediately in illness or disability. If you are not immediately incapacitated but you wish to protect your future right to benefit, you should tell your employer about your accident or disease. You must apply without delay for a declaration that your accident or disease was occupational.

You can get the application form from:

**Medical Care Section
Department of Social Protection
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada
Store Street
Dublin 1**

LoCall: 1890 928 400 (from the Republic of Ireland only), or

+353 1 704 3000 (from Northern Ireland or overseas).

What medical expenses will I get a refund for?

You may get a refund of the following expenses if they are not fully covered by the Health Service Executive (HSE) or by our Treatment Benefit Scheme:

- doctor's visits,
- doctor's prescriptions, - claims for medication should be on prescription claim forms only, which are issued by the pharmacy,
- certain medical or surgical appliances and the repair and replacement of these (for example, artificial limbs or hearing aids),
- certain dental and eye treatment,
- certain treatment prescribed by your doctor, and

Issued by:
Information Services
Department of Social Protection
Social Welfare Services
College Road
Sligo

For more information:

- Log on to www.welfare.ie.
- LoCall Information Line **1890 66 22 44** or if calling from outside the Republic of Ireland call **+353 71 91 93313**.
- Drop in to your local Intreo Centre, Social Welfare Office or Citizens Information Centre.

- certain travelling expenses, usually limited to the cost of public transport.

The expenses must be **reasonable** and **necessary**. Hospital bills (public hospitals) may be paid directly to the hospital or to the claimant once proof of payment (hospital receipt) is submitted.

What medical expenses are non-refundable under the Medical Care Scheme?

Medical care does not cover the cost of specialist services (including private hospitalisation, consultants, physiotherapy, x-rays, scans, MRIs, laboratory services, reports etc.). As insured people are entitled to these under the Health Acts and can avail of these treatments as an in-patient in a public ward or the out-patient department of a public hospital, they are not covered by the Medical Care Scheme.

How do I apply for Medical Care?

Complete application form **C1** (available for download here) and send it to:

Medical Care Section

Department of Social Protection
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada
Store Street
Dublin 1

LoCall: 1890 928 400 (from the Republic of Ireland only), or

+353 1 704 3000 (from Northern Ireland or overseas).

The completed form should be received in this Department within 6 weeks of your medical treatment and must be accompanied by original receipts in support of your claim. Payment will not issue for a claim based on photocopied receipts.

Make sure you quote your Personal Public Service Number on any receipts you send in with the application form **C1**.

How is my payment made?

You can get your payment directly to your current, deposit or savings account in a financial institution. In certain circumstances, payment can be made by cheque or at a Post Office of your choice.

Normally you get only one payment but if the treatment is ongoing, you may get payment in instalments. We usually give payments to the person who applies, but we may make them to the Health Service Executive (HSE), or to an employer, if necessary.

Where can I get more information?

For more details about Medical Care contact your local Intreo Centre, your local Citizens Information Centre, your local Social Welfare Office or Medical Care Section at the above address.

Note

The rates charged for using 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary among different service providers.

Other useful booklets

Death Benefit	SW 32
Disablement Benefit	SW 31
Injury Benefit	SW 30
Prescribed Occupational Diseases	SW 33
Treatment Benefit	SW 24

This leaflet is intended as a guide only and is not a legal interpretation.