



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Guide to Health Services under the Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Act 2015

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1. Eligibility

Qualification for health services under the Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions (RWRCI) Act 2015 is based on the following:

- (i) the Minister for Justice and Equality has determined that a woman is eligible under the Restorative Justice Scheme, which provides for the making of ex-gratia payments to women who were admitted to and worked in a relevant institution; and,
- (ii) a woman has accepted a formal offer made to her by the Minister for Justice and Equality under the Restorative Justice Scheme.

These women will receive a 2015A Scheme card from the HSE, which identifies the holder as qualifying for the health services specified in the RWRCI Act 2015.

2. Health Services

The following primary and community health services are available to cardholders in Ireland and will be provided on the basis of assessed needs:

- (i) **General Practitioner Service**
This includes standard attendances for routine general practitioner services at a GP chosen by the cardholder from the list of GPs participating in the General Medical Services (GMS) scheme or a non-GMS registered medical practitioner providing general practitioner services.
- (ii) **Drugs, Medicines and Medical and Surgical Appliances**
The card holder is eligible to receive free of charge all medicines, medical and surgical appliances that are currently reimbursed by the community drugs scheme. This eligibility refers to items prescribed by a clinical professional. **Cardholders are not required to pay any prescription fees.**
- (iii) **Dental, Ophthalmic and Aural Services**
The card holder has access to public dental, ophthalmic (eye sight) and aural (hearing) services.
Dental Services
Service under the Dental Treatment Service Scheme include:
 - A free oral examination every calendar year
 - Two fillings every calendar year
 - All extractions
 - Free emergency dental treatment for relief of pain and sepsis
 - Dentures (every 5 years, if clinically necessary)
 - Additional fillings, prophylaxis, other more complex dental treatments if clinically indicated

Ophthalmic Services

This service includes:

- Free eye examination by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist
- Any necessary standard spectacles, (frames and lenses, once every two years more often if required in certain medical circumstances). Lost or broken spectacles may be replaced within two years.

Aural Services

The HSE provides aural services, including hearing tests, hearing aids and repairs of hearing aids.

(iv) Home Nursing Service

The card holder can access the home nursing service, which is provided by the HSE under section 60 of the Health Act 1970, (as amended). The nursing service, which is defined as care provided at home, can provide advice on matters relating to the cardholder's health and assist her if she is sick.

(v) Home Support Service

The card holder can access the home support service, which is provided by the HSE under section 61 of the Health Act 1970, (as amended). This service assists her to remain in her own home and provides assistance with personal care. The extent of support will be determined following an assessment by a registered medical practitioner or a registered nurse that the service is so required.

(vi) Chiropody Service

The card holder can access chiropody services, which are provided by the HSE, following a referral made by a registered medical practitioner, registered nurse or Primary Care team.

(vii) Physiotherapy Service

The card holder can access physiotherapy services, which are provided by the HSE, following a referral made by a registered medical practitioner or Primary Care team.

(viii) Counselling Service

The card holder can access a counselling service, relative to her admission to and/or work in any of the institutions specified in the Schedule in the RWRCI Act 2015. The counselling service is provided by the HSE, following a referral made by a registered medical practitioner, e.g. the woman's GP.

Important information:

In order to access the services of the RWRCI Act, card holders are required to produce their cards as evidence of eligibility to gain access to services.

3. HSE Community Health Organisation Area Contact Persons

A contact person has been appointed in each Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) area to provide information on the health services available under the RWRCI Act. The details are as follows:

Area	Name	Email address	Phone number
Area 1 – Donegal, Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan, Cavan / Monaghan	Trish Garland	patricia.garland@hse.ie	071 914 0409
Area 2 – Galway / Roscommon, Mayo	Laurence Gaughan	laurence.gaughan@hse.ie	094 904 2019 094 904 2509
Area 3 – Clare	Esther Connellan	esther.connellan@hse.ie	065 6868030 065 6868038
Area 3 – Limerick, North Tipperary / East Limerick	Marion Kennedy	marion.kennedy@hse.ie	061 461 137 061 461 140
Area 4 – Kerry, North Cork, North Lee, South Lee, West Cork	Elmar Cronin	elmarm.cronin@hse.ie	021 492 3816
Area 5 – South Tipperary, Carlow / Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford	Mairead Fennessy	mairead.fennessy@hse.ie	051 842875 053 912 3522
Area 6 – Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East	Deirdre Ryan	deirdre.ryan@hse.ie	01 268 0340
Area 7 – Kildare / West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West	Concepta De Brun	concepta.debrun@hse.ie	076 695 5798
Area 8 – Laois / Offaly, Longford / Westmeath, Louth / Meath	Elaine Barry-Flynn	elainem.barry@hse.ie	044 938 4429
Area 9 – Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West	Margaret Gannon	margaret.gannon1@hse.ie	01 846 7284

4. Additional Benefits

In addition to a range of primary and community health services, a number of benefits are provided by the HSE to the cardholder as follows:

- I. the ex-gratia payment received from the Minister for Justice and Equality will not be included in the assessment of means for a medical card or a GP visit card;
- II. the ex-gratia payment received from the Minister for Justice and Equality will not be included in the assessment of means under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act 2009, also known as the "Fair Deal" scheme.

5. Frequently Asked Questions

I AM CURRENTLY A MEDICAL CARD HOLDER. WILL I RETAIN MY MEDICAL CARD OR DOES THE 2015A SCHEME CARD REPLACE IT?

Current medical card holders will retain their existing card. The 2015A Scheme card is a separate arrangement to the medical card/GP visit card scheme. Holding a 2015A Scheme card does not affect whether a person qualifies or does not qualify for a medical/GP visit card.

HOW DO I ACCESS THE SERVICES OF THE 2105A SCHEME CARD?

Card holders are required to present their 2015A card when availing of services.

CAN THE PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES BE PROVIDED TO MY FAMILY?

The services under the Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Act 2015, as outlined in this leaflet, are available only to the person named on the 2015A Scheme card and do not extend to any dependants or other family members, e.g. spouse or partner.

WHAT WILL THE CHO CONTACT PERSON DO?

The Contact Person will act as a point of contact for cardholders for information on the services available in the relevant area.

CAN I CHANGE MY GP?

Yes. Cardholders who wish to change their GP should contact the CHO Contact Person relevant to their area or Lo Call 1890 252 919 to get information on how to change GP.

I WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE AN ADVOCATE TO ACT ON MY BEHALF. WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

In order to nominate a named advocate, cardholders should contact the CHO Contact Person for their area (listed above) or Lo Call 1890 252 919.



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