SUPPORTS FROM THE HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE

- Community Care Services
- Day Centres
- Meals on Wheels Services
- Transport
- Homecare Packages
- Moving from Hospital to long term care
- Long term Illness Scheme
- Drugs Payment Scheme
- Hospital Care
- School Transfer for children with Special Needs
- Back to School clothing & Footwear Allowance
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- Community Care Services
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- Fair Deal
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- Medical Cards
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COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

These services can include public health nursing service, Home Care Attendant (personal care and assistance with showering, dressing etc.) Home Help, Respite (in a residential Nursing Home).

The rules about which community care can be provided differ in accordance with different services. In some cases Health Service Executive areas are obliged to provide services while, in others, they are not.

One of the reasons for this is the health services provided in your area reflects the population in the area i.e. older people, children, people with disabilities etc.

Contact your local Public Health Nurse for services in your area.

DAY CENTRES

Day centres include centres that provide day activities such as recreational, sport and leisure facilities and specialized clinic facilities that provide a combination of medical and vocational rehabilitation services. Day centres are provided on a variable basis throughout the country, some being funded by the Health Service Executive (HSE) and other funded by voluntary organisations.

Day centres providing medical care are less widely available and are funded by the HSE. Access to day centres is by referral and the eligibility conditions vary from area to area with means tests applying in some cases.
MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICES

Meals services are generally provided by a mixture of voluntary and statutory bodies. The ways in which these are provided vary from area to area. Access to meals services is generally by referral. You may be asked to contribute towards the cost of meals services. Eligibility conditions vary from area to area.

TRANSPORT

Transport services are provided by HSE on a varying basis throughout the country. These services include access to day hospitals and day centres and access to outpatient departments and other hospital services.

HOME CARE PACKAGES

Deliver a wide range of services, they include the services of nurses, home care attendants, home helps and the various therapists including physiotherapists and occupational therapists.

The priority will be older people living in the community or who are inpatients in an acute hospital and who are at risk of admission to long-term care. The home care packages will also be available to those older people who have been admitted to long-term care and who now wish to return to the community. In addition, the packages will be offered to people who are already using existing core services, such as home helps, but need more assistance to continue to live in their community.

MOVING FROM HOSPITAL CARE TO LONG-TERM CARE

If you are in hospital, but no longer need acute care, then you can be charged for long-term care in that hospital. If, for example, you are waiting to move to long-term care, then you should apply for the NHSS scheme as soon as possible. You will not be charged if you are on a waiting list for the NHSS, or if you have particular needs and there is no suitable accommodation available.
The Nursing Homes Support Scheme, also known as the “Fair Deal”, provides financial support to people who need long-term nursing home care. The scheme is operated by the Health Service Executive (HSE). Under this scheme, you make a contribution towards the cost of your care and the State pays the balance. The scheme covers approved private nursing homes, voluntary nursing homes and public nursing homes. You can get the list of approved nursing homes from the HSE. Please see “Fair Deal “Section for more details.

Anyone who is ordinarily resident in the State and is assessed as needing long-term nursing home care can apply for the scheme.

If you have one of the medical conditions below, you should apply to join the Long Term Illness scheme to cover the cost of your medication.

- Acute Leukemia
- Mental handicap
- Cerebral Palsy
- Mental Illness (in a person under 16)
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Diabetes Insipidus
- Muscular Dystrophies
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Parkinsonism
- Epilepsy
- Phenylketonuria
- Haemophilia
- Spina Bifida
- Hydrocephalus
- Conditions arising from the use of Thalidomide

How to apply

Application forms for the above Scheme are available from your local Health Service Executive office.
Under the Drugs Payment Scheme, an individual or family in Ireland only has to pay €144 each month for approved prescribed drugs, medicines and certain appliances for use by that person or his or her family in that month. The amount is determined from time to time by the Minister for Health and Children. If you have a GP Visit Card or do not have a Medical Card you should apply for a Drugs Payment Scheme Card.

This scheme is aimed at those who don’t have a Medical Card and normally have to pay the full cost of their medication. It also applies to those who have a GP Visit Card. Anyone ordinarily resident in Ireland can apply to join the scheme, regardless of family, financial circumstances or nationality. Being ordinarily resident in Ireland means that you have been living here for a minimum of one year or that you intend to live here for a minimum of one year.

The definition of a family for this Scheme, is an adult, their spouse, and any children under 18 years. Dependents over 18 years and under 23 years who are in full time education may also be included. Everyone ordinarily resident in Ireland without a Medical Card should have a Drugs Payment Scheme Card.
MEDICAL CARDS

If you have a medical card you are entitled to a range of free health board services, including hospital care, medicines, treatment by your GP, and technical aids and appliances.

To qualify for a medical card your weekly income must be below a certain figure for your family size. Cash income, savings, investments and property (except for your own home) are taken into account in the means test.

HOSPITAL CARE

All citizens are entitled to in-patient and out-patient services in public hospitals regardless of their means.

You have to pay the full cost of services if you opt for private or semi-private treatment in a public hospital.

Generally speaking, unless you have a medical card, you have to pay a daily charge for in-patient service. A charge is made for attendance at Accident & Emergency departments of public hospitals unless you are referred by your doctor.
BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR ALLOWANCE

You may be able to avail of this scheme to help towards the cost of school uniforms and footwear for your children. The scheme is means-tested, but many Carers in receipt of Carers Allowance could qualify.

To be eligible for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, the applicant (parent or guardian) must meet a number of conditions. You must be receiving certain social welfare payments or payments for training, employment schemes or adult education. Your total household income must be below a certain amount.

The child/student must be between 4 and 22 years before 30th September of the year you apply and must be in full-time education at a recognized school or college.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Department of Education and Skills provides school transport services for children with special needs. Bus Éireann (the State public transport operator) operates the school transport service on behalf of the Department. The school transport scheme applies to children who are enrolled in State special schools or special classes in state primary schools.

The School Transport service may not be available in all areas. Where the special transport cannot be provided, you may be eligible for a transport grant to help with the cost of making private transport arrangements.

If your application for a transport grant has been refused, you are entitled to appeal the decision. You must appeal in writing to the Special Education Section of the Department of Education and Skills.

 Appeals can be made in the following cases:

- If the Department is not in a position to provide a transport service due to excessive cost.
- Where the maximum level of grant offered does not cover the assessed cost of the journey involved.