

Nursing Homes Support Scheme “A Fair Deal” Information Sheet on Payment of Fees

What is the Nursing Homes Support Scheme?

The Nursing Homes Support Scheme is a scheme of financial support for people who need long-term nursing home care. A person availing of financial support under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme can choose any nursing home, public or private, which qualifies for the scheme. In each case, the person will enter into a contract with the nursing home of their choice.

The HSE, which administers the Nursing Homes Support Scheme, will pay financial support directly to the nursing home on the person's behalf. However, it should be noted that the contract for care is between the person and the nursing home of their choice.

What costs and services are covered by the Nursing Homes Support Scheme?

The scheme provides financial support in respect of the cost of **long-term residential care**. The agreed cost/price of long-term residential care in each nursing home qualifying for the scheme is published by the HSE.

The services which fall within the scope of long-term residential care and which are covered by this published cost/price are:

- nursing and personal care appropriate to the level of care needs of the person,
- basic aids and appliances necessary to assist a person with the activities of daily living,
- bed and board, and
- laundry service.

A person who avails of the Nursing Homes Support Scheme should not be charged any additional fee over and above this published cost/price, except where he or she chooses to obtain additional services over and above long-term residential care services, for example, hairdressing or the delivery of daily newspapers.

What about incontinence wear?

Existing arrangements with regard to the provision of incontinence wear to residents in public and private nursing homes will also remain in place.

What about my eligibility for other Schemes?

A person's eligibility for other schemes, such as the Medical Card Scheme or the Drugs Payment Scheme, is unaffected by the Nursing Homes Support Scheme. In other words, a person can continue to receive goods and services in accordance with the terms of these other schemes regardless of whether they are in a private nursing home or elsewhere.

In determining the services covered by the Nursing Homes Support Scheme, it was considered very important that the care recipient and the taxpayer would be protected and would not end up paying for the same services twice. For this reason, medications and aids that are already prescribed for individuals under an existing scheme are not included in the services covered by the new Nursing Homes Support Scheme (i.e. as this would involve effectively paying twice for the same items or service).

What should be included in my contract with my nursing home?

Under the new Quality Standards and Regulations for nursing homes, a nursing home must agree a contract with every new entrant to the home within one month of admission. This contract must include details of the services to be provided for that person and the fees to be charged. A person must not be charged fees which are not set out in the contract.