

27 April 2023

## **Number of people in receipt of Medical Equipment in use in the home and cost of running these energy devices**

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information about the number of people in your Belfast Health & Social Care Trust who are in receipt of medical equipment for use in the home and the cost of running these energy devices.

- 1. How many patients of Belfast Health & Social Care Trust are using or have been prescribed the following medical devices for use in their home?**
  - a. Nebuliser**
    - Unable to estimate the number of patients with home nebulisers either purchased by themselves or given via the Trust
  - b. Oxygen concentrator**
    - We currently have 833 patients within Belfast who use home oxygen
  - c. Suction**
    - There are 330 suction machines currently in the community. This is across a number of disciplines and accounts for machine stock as bases also
  - d. Ventilator or non-invasive ventilation (BiPAP or CPAP)**
    - We have 412 on home NIV, this number does not include those on CPAP
  - e. Feeding pump**
    - There are 114 pumps for children and 125 for adults
  - f. Powered hospital bed**
    - There are 2,555 powered hospital beds
  - g. Electric wheelchair**
    - There are approx. 1500 powered wheelchair users in NI
  - h. Haemodialysis machine**
    - We have 14 patients who have a haemodialysis machine for use in their own home
  - i. Body drier**
    - Information not available
  - j. Chair lift.**
    - There are 691 Stair lifts
  
- 2. What, if any, rebate or refund schemes are made available by Belfast Health & Social Care Trust for patients in respect of the energy costs they incur running the above devices?**

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- a. Nebuliser**
  - There is no reimbursement for electricity costs
- b. Oxygen concentrator**
  - The costs for running the electricity is reimbursed by the BOC the contracted company at the electricity provider rate per customer
- c. Suction**
  - There is no reimbursement for the energy costs for these patients
- d. Ventilator or non-invasive ventilation (BiPAP or CPAP)**
  - There is no reimbursement for the electricity costs for these patients
- e. Feeding Pump**
  - There is no reimbursement for the energy costs for these patients
- f. Powered Hospital Bed**
  - There is no reimbursement for the energy costs for these patients
- g. Electric wheelchair**
  - There are no rebate or refund schemes available to Belfast Health & Social Care Trust patients in relation to electric wheelchairs
- h. Haemodialysis machine**
  - All patients on home haemodialysis receive a financial reimbursement from BHSCCT, of £50 a month a total of £600/year
- i. Body drier**
  - Information not available
- j. Chair lift**
  - The Belfast trust does not have any rebate or refund scheme in respect of the energy costs that service users incur in running stair lifts.