

CHOOSE
YOU™



RIGHTS TO HIV CARE IN IRELAND

Learn about your rights to Health Service Executive (HSE) care and feel supported to have open, informed conversations with your healthcare team about what matters to you.

Everyone's life is different, and your needs and priorities may change over time. Your care should reflect what matters to you.

You have the right to access HSE services, either free of charge or at a reduced cost.¹

Healthcare is the medical care you receive for your physical, mental or emotional wellbeing. It is provided by a healthcare team which typically includes different types of doctors, nurses or pharmacists.

If you have been living in Ireland for at least one year, or intend to, you can get most of your healthcare for free or at a reduced cost with the HSE.¹

HIV treatment and care in Ireland are free and available under the public health system, regardless of a person's legal status.²

To find out more, or if you are unsure about what you have the right to receive, contact your local HIV support organisation.

You have the right to receive care that meets your needs.³

You have the right to talk to your healthcare team about what is important to you, so you can work together to choose care that's right for you and your life.⁴

If you're not happy with the care you receive, you have the right to provide this feedback. You can make a complaint through the HSE Your Service Your Say platform.⁵

Questions to ask yourself

- Has my everyday life changed recently in a way that might affect my care needs, or where I access my care? (This could include moving home, additions to your family, change in work)
- Am I happy with the way that my care is being delivered?
- Does my healthcare team give me the opportunity to discuss what matters most to me - without pressure or judgement?

You have the right to be part of the decisions made about your care and treatment.⁴

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You deserve clear information, time to ask questions and the opportunity to discuss what matters most to you.

Questions to ask yourself

- Do I have enough information about my options to get involved in the decisions about my care?
- Do I fully understand the information I am given about my care?
- Would I like more time to consider my options before discussing my care?
- Are there questions I want to ask during my next HIV consultation?

You have the right to privacy and confidentiality and to expect the HSE will keep your confidential information secure.³

There are important rules in the HSE that mean personal information about you, including your HIV status, must be kept confidential.³

You may need to talk to your healthcare team about more personal topics, and you can expect this to be kept private.³

This also includes reception and support staff within hospitals and clinics who should not discuss your HIV status or personal information with anyone.³

If you think your confidentiality has been broken, you can reach out to the HSE Your Service Your Say to make a complaint.⁵

Questions to ask yourself

- Do I know what information should be kept private and confidential?
- Do I think my confidentiality might have been broken in the past?

Visit www.hivchooseyou.ie to find more ways to Choose You.

References:
1. Citizens Information (2022) Entitlement to health services. Available at: <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/health/health-system/entitlement-to-public-health-services/>. Last accessed on: October 2026. 2. HIV Ireland (n.d.) Moving to Ireland and HIV. Available at: <https://www.hivireland.ie/living-with-hiv/moving-to-ireland-and-hiv/>. Last accessed on: October 2026. 3. South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital (2016) National Healthcare Charter: You and Your Health Service. Available at: <https://www.sivuh.ie/patientsvisitors/patientscharter.html>. Last accessed on: October 2026. 4. Health Service Executive (2024) HSE Consent Policy. Available at: <https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/procedures-guidelines/hse-consent-policy/>. Last accessed on: October 2026. 5. Health Service Executive (2026) Give feedback through Your Service Your Say: Complaints and feedback. Available at: <https://www2.hse.ie/complaints-feedback/your-service-your-say/>. Last accessed on: October 2026.

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