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April 9th 2019

Mr. Pat Buckley T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 13316/19

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact the SouthDoc in Youghal, County Cork is not in use; the rationale for same; his plans to rectify the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Buckley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

SouthDoc is an Out of Hours (OOH) family doctor service for urgent medical needs in Cork and Kerry. It has a network of 26 treatment centres, including Youghal, of which eight are overnight facilities. When a patient makes contact with SouthDoc, an electronic medical record is created which documents the patient's details, clinical category and progression through the service.

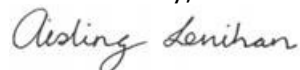
Patients calling from the East Cork Region, including Youghal, have their medical records sent to the Midleton Treatment Centre as this is the central hub for the area. The allocation of records to Midleton maximises safety and ensures the integrity of the transfer process where the Doctors on duty further review the records with a view to the appropriate treatment type of each patient based on the individual patient's clinical condition. The most appropriate location of a consultation is determined by the individual patient's clinical condition and may be in the home or in a treatment centre, i.e., Midleton or Youghal.

While Midleton remains the principal treatment centre for the East Cork area, the treatment centre located at Millennium Court, Youghal, continues to be used on an as needs basis.

SouthDoc will continue to deliver the service in response to patient needs in a manner which assures safety, ease and equity of access and does not have any plans to alter the service in any way that would diminish this ethos.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Aisling Lenihan
A/Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare