



**PRÍOMHOIFIGEACH ECSP CEANTAR 8**  
**COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ORGANISATION 8**

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24<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Deputy Imelda Munster  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 17476/20 – To ask the Minister for Health the health centres in counties Louth and Meath that provide therapeutic phlebotomy services for patients suffering with haemochromatosis; the number on the waiting lists for this service in each healthcare centre; and the average and longest waiting times – Imelda Munster**

Dear Deputy Munster,

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. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

The phlebotomy service is a non urgent care service. Boyne Primary Care Phlebotomy service has changed its procedures due to Covid 19, the service operates an appointment only based service now, this has reduced the number of attendees daily from 70 to 40. This is to allow for social distancing. We keep two slots daily for emergency issues.

The procedure in question involves taking a blood sample. The GP must request the sample to be drawn and provide written documentation confirming that he has explained the procedure to the client and gained informed consent to having the sample drawn. Our service takes the sample based on the fulfilling of the above criteria.

Since transferring across to the appointment based system there are significant numbers requesting bloods, there is approximately a 3-4 working day wait for bloods with a 12% daily capacity for those that are deemed urgent by the GP. Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital had closed their community phlebotomy service for a period of time this had put additional pressure on our current service. Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital have recently just migrated their service to an appointment only service for GP requests.

No centres in Meath currently provide therapeutic phlebotomy services.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Lyons  
Acting Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation