



Oifig an Straitéis Chúraim Phríomha agus an Phleanála
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21 August, 2020.

**Deputy Joe McHugh, T.D.,
Dail Eireann,
Kildare St,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy McHugh,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your Parliamentary Question below which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

PQ 18313/20: “To ask the Minister for Health if the appropriate policy is in place for utilising primary health centres for urology procedures; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” –Joe McHugh

Primary care centres provide a single point of access to health services in the community. They offer an ideal alternative to hospitals for the management of many aspects of care for long-term conditions like diabetes, asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The development of primary care centres is an important part of Sláintecare with the emphasis on supporting people to live independently in their own communities for as long as possible receiving the right care at the right time at the right place. Primary care centres and other community facilities can also be developed to support access to diagnostics and to provide minor surgery as clinically appropriate. The HSE is always looking to ensure the maximisation of what can be delivered within primary care centres as they are developed with continued investment in the development of primary care centres across the country.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley'.

**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Primary Care Strategy and Planning.**