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Sean Sherlock T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 8753/20

“To ask the Minister for Health when out of hours doctors service will resume in Youghal, County Cork.”

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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, and remained open during Covid contingency phase, the treatment centre located at Millennium Court, Youghal, will continue to be used on an as needs basis when Covid contingency measures are phased out.

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

Yours sincerely,



Teresa O' Donovan
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare