



17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Deputy Colm Burke  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 34110/20 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a full list of general practitioners that provide venesection services for haemochromatosis patients in view of the fact that haemochromatosis patients that have had their treatment cancelled or postponed in hospitals may have difficulty in accessing a list of general practitioners that provide these services (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**Details supplied: In some cases where GPs perform venesections, they have closed their lists and do not take on new patients**

-Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

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

As at November 2020, 94% of GMS GPs' are covered by the Service Modernisation & Reform Measures. Therapeutic Phlebotomy for Hemochromatosis for GMS/GPVC patients was the first of three enhanced Special Items of Service introduced through the GP Agreement. This was aimed at moving the focus of this service from the acute setting to Primary Care. It is estimated that this will potentially benefit 8,000 people annually. The fee for Therapeutic Phlebotomy is a Special Type consultation fee so it is at the discretion of the GP as to whether he/she wishes to provide the service or not to eligible patients. Therefore, a list of such GPs is not available as this information is not collated.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Pp

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Siobhán McArdle,  
Head of Operations Primary Care,  
Community Operations