



Primary Care Reimbursement Service
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Tel: 01- 8647100

Claire Kerrane, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

14th October, 2020

PQ: 27970/20

To ask the Minister for Health the process in which medical card holders charged for blood tests by their general practitioner can apply to the HSE for reimbursement; the length of time this process takes for persons; the number of applications received for reimbursement in 2017, 2018 and 2019; if he is satisfied with the current process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Claire Kerrane

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 27970/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The contract with GPs is administered at a local level, eligible persons who have a query or complaint regarding the delivery of service by their GP of choice should, in the first instance, refer their query or complaint to their local health office for appropriate examination.

Following due process, should the local health manager deem that the a person with Medical Card eligibility or GP Visit Card eligibility has been charged inappropriate for routine phlebotomy services, where the samples are taken in the GP's practice as part of the investigation and necessary treatment of patients' symptoms or conditions, the Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service (PCERS) should be notified accordingly. The PCERS will, based on the recommendation of the local health manager, make a full refund to the patient concerned and will make a corresponding deduction from the routine payments to the General Practitioner concerned, in accordance with the notification sent to GPs in Circular 011-14 – copy attached. The length of time this process takes for persons depends on how long due process takes in the Local Health Office.

The PCERS does not collated the refund requests broken down each year. However since 26th June 2017 the PCERS have received refund requests relating to blood services totaling €5,485. This is broken up into 41 unique GPs and 85 unique patients.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle'.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service

The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie