



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
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11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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

**PQ 60451/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of applications made for the reimbursement of costs for blood tests with a general practitioner in 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021; the number of applications approved and paid out and the number refused; the current average waiting time for reimbursement; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

- Claire Kerrane

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 60451/21) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The number of applications made for the reimbursement of costs for blood tests with a general practitioner in 2019, 2020 and received to date in 2021.

Year	The number of applications made for the reimbursement of costs for blood tests	Number of applications approved	Number of applications withdrawn / not approved	Number of applications awaiting a decision
2019	56	-	-	-
2020	56	-	-	-
2021	42	13	25	4

Applications for refunds of costs of blood tests are made at CHO level. The HSE will investigate instances where clients are charged for blood tests by their General Practitioner. Any investigation is dependent on the client providing consent to permit the HSE to contact their General Practitioner. However in many instances clients do not provide the HSE with the consent to contact their General Practitioner and the client subsequently withdraws their applicant for a refund.

Any refunds approved are paid to the applicants by the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS). The PCRS have advised that information regarding the number of applications approved and paid out for 2019 & 2020 is not available.

Please note that the current average waiting time for reimbursement is not available.



I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Seán McArt'.

**Seán McArt**  
General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations