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Deputy Colm Burke,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

15th April, 2021

PQ 14852/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the general practice diagnostic services that are in place and have been provided as part of the HSE Winter Plan 20/21; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question which was passed to the HSE for response.

Under the Winter 2020/21 plan further integrated delivery of care in the community was prioritised. In order to provide timely direct access to diagnostics for GPs provision was made to enhance existing services. Since the 18th January 2021 increased direct GP access to radiology diagnostic services was rolled out. This service accommodates additional access to 94,000 scans for x-ray, CT, MRI and DEXA via private providers/ hospitals across the country.

Further details on the radiology diagnostics service can be accessed here:
https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/community-healthcare-networks/gp-diagnostics/

It is anticipated that additional diagnostic services, including direct access to BNP testing, spirometry, and echocardiography will also be made available to GPs in due course. These services will support GPs in the delivery of improved patient care within the Chronic Disease Management Programme.

Increasing access to diagnostics in the community will support the provision of patient-centred care, early diagnosis, early intervention, hospital avoidance and ultimately, improved patient outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

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